RUBBER Review

Published by
TechnoBiz
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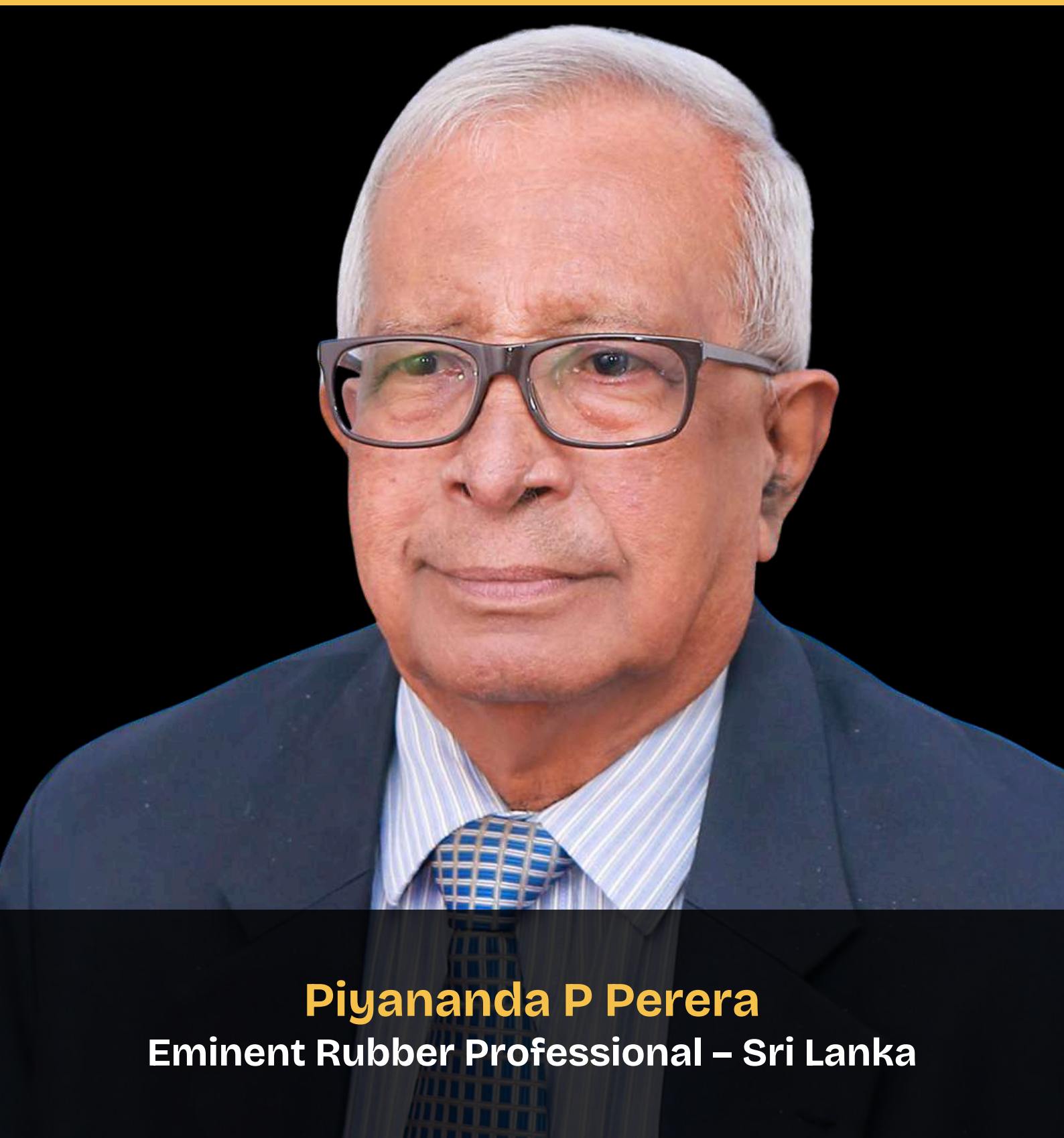
A Weekly E-Magazine
for Global Rubber Industries

Issue #19 *| 29 Sept- 5 Oct 2025 | www.rubber-review.com | Free Subscription*



Piyananda P Perera

Eminent Rubber Professional – Sri Lanka

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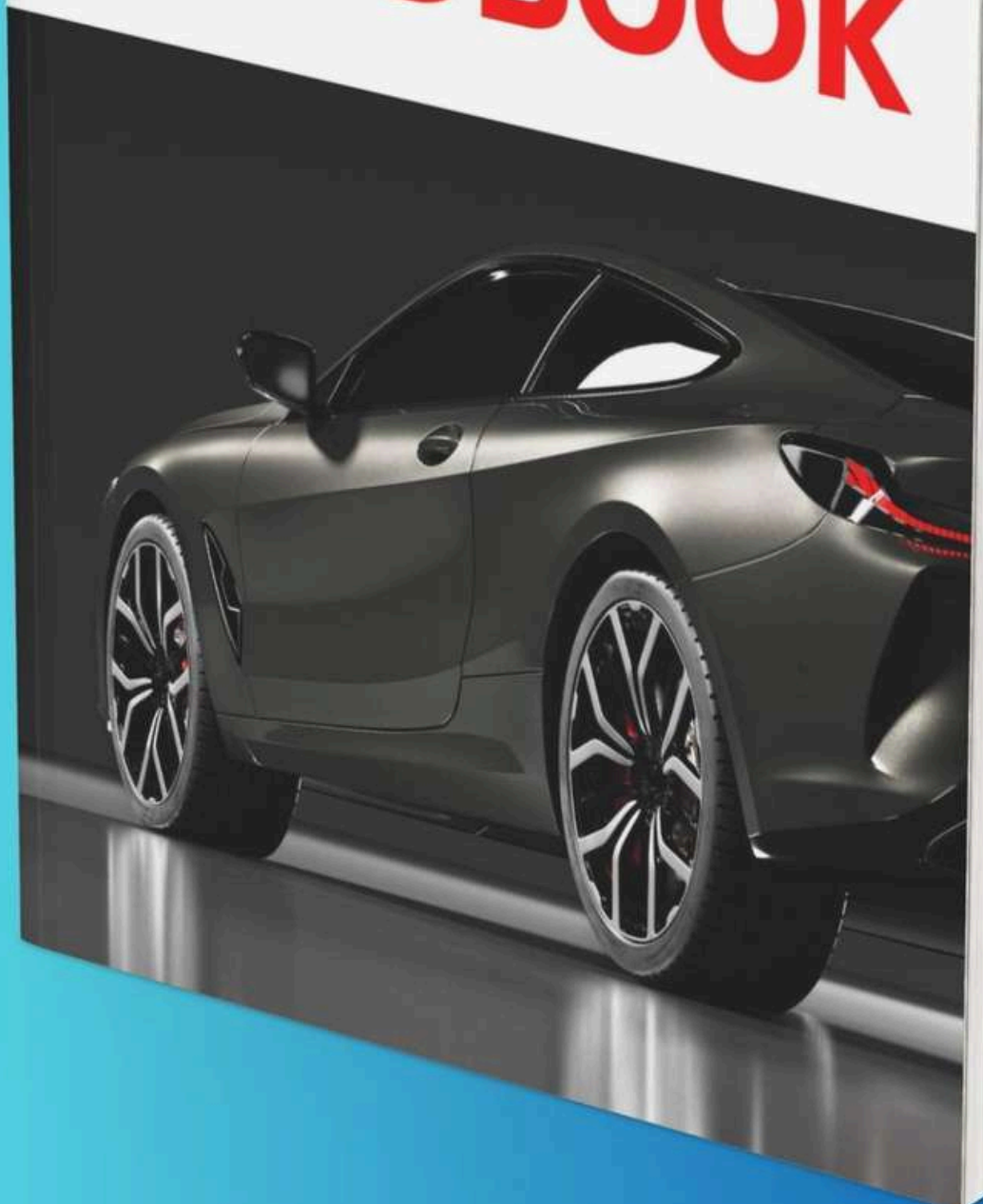

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COVER STORY

Conversation with
Piyananda P Perera
Eminent Rubber Professional – Sri Lanka

***Mr. P. P. Perera**, a distinguished leader and mentor in the Sri Lankan rubber industry, has dedicated over five decades to advancing manufacturing, quality systems, and human capital development across Sri Lanka and East Africa. From his early career at Elasto Ltd, Bata Shoe Co. to leadership roles with Vaculug Tyres, Avon Rubber, Dunlop Kenya, and Associated Motorways, Mr. Perera has combined technical expertise with a passion for nurturing people.*

His contributions extend beyond industry, with more than 45 years of teaching at the University of Moratuwa and the Plastics & Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka, shaping countless professionals who now lead globally. As a consultant, auditor, and trainer in quality, environmental, and productivity systems, Mr. Perera has played a pivotal role in modernizing the industry, fostering cleaner production, and preparing strategic roadmaps for Sri Lanka's rubber sector. His journey is not just about building products, but about building people, systems, and a legacy of sustainable excellence.

In this exclusive interview, he shares his reflections on five decades of experience, the evolution of Sri Lanka's rubber industry, and its future potential. The discussion also highlights his views on entrepreneurship, government policy, and the importance of nurturing the next generation of professionals.

Early Career and Personal Journey

What inspired you to enter the rubber industry, and how did your early experiences at Elasto Ltd and Bata Shoe Co. shape your career path?

On looking back reflectively, the rubber industry was completely alien to me as a young person of 22 years. My inspiration at that time was to become a medical doctor. During those days, medicine and engineering were the preferred fields of respect and recognition in society, especially among parents. The scope of higher education at the university level was very narrow, quite in contrast to today's scenario. As a young person burdened by the shattered dream of failing to enter medical college, the only available option for me was to find a suitable job. After attending a few interviews, I was finally selected as a Trainee at Elasto Ltd., a medium-scale rubber footwear manufacturing company about 60 km away from home, on 1st September 1968.

Once I joined Elasto, my strong inclination towards organic chemistry was invigorated, and my curiosity was inspired by the multitude of rubber chemicals, compound recipes, and the then available limited literature and suppliers' manuals. One of the conditions for the confirmation of our jobs was to pass the Licentiate examination of the Institution of the Rubber Industry, UK, which was conducted as a two-year part-time course at the Ceylon College of Technology, which later became the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. We were given leave at 10 a.m. on Saturdays to attend the classes, and I can recollect how a few of us trainees had to travel in crowded buses to Colombo. I consider those hardships as challenges that strengthened our young minds to face difficulties in life. The rubber industry, especially during those days, was considered a 3D industry (dirty, difficult, and dangerous)—a truth that is still valid in most small and some medium-scale enterprises even today.

After about one and a half years of working with Elasto, I was selected to join the footwear giant Bata Shoe Company of Ceylon Ltd., very close to my home, as a Management Trainee. The switchover from a traditional rural environment to an urban setting was a social and cultural challenge. Being part of the then multinational Bata organization, we were introduced to standardized procedures, documentation, and formats long before the ISO 9001 Management Systems Standard was established globally.

The very first part of our training was to work in the retail shops for two weeks to become familiar with customer requirements and to develop an awareness of customer psychology. Here, practice was more important than theory. Our in-factory training involved actual work with compounding, mixing mills, extruders, calenders, and shoe assembly conveyors. Our competencies were evaluated and assessed during the three-year training period, and I got the opportunity to join the Quality Control Laboratory, where I eventually became the Chief Chemist.

I was also fortunate to attend some of the regional technical conferences held in India, Malaysia, and Singapore, as well as the IRMRA Conferences and the Bayer Technical Training Course in Thane, during my 12 years of working with Bata. These offered invaluable opportunities to broaden my knowledge and outlook, particularly the ability to work in ethnic and multicultural environments, which later became very useful in my overseas employment. More important, in my own opinion, were the work discipline, punctuality, time management, and planning skills that I acquired during my 12 years of working with Bata.

Could you share some of the challenges you faced while working in Kenya with companies such as Vaculug Tyres, Avon Rubber, and Dunlop, and how those experiences differed from working in Sri Lanka?

My first overseas appointment was in 1981 as a Rubber Technologist at Vaculug Traction Tyres Kenya Ltd in Nairobi. It was an exciting experience to join as an expatriate, with the perks associated for myself and my family, in the quest for greener pastures. Venturing into the "dark continent," as Africa was labelled at that time, raised some concerns and apprehensions, especially among my parents, as we were travelling with our three-year-old daughter. It was also a technical challenge to venture into the world of tyre retreading after having been engaged in the footwear industry for about 14 years. In addition, I was going to use my newly acquired driving license for the very first time.

Except for Firestone Kenya and the Bata Shoe Company, the level of technology in other companies was much lower than in Sri Lanka. I did not find working together with the Kenyan and Asian communities to be much of a problem, although some level of social and cultural adjustment was necessary. The biggest challenge was to introduce process and quality control methods at Vaculug, as there was no formal education in rubber technology in Kenya during that time. In addition to retreading truck and bus tyres, Vaculug also handled OTR tyres, mainly for the sugar plantations, using extruded lugs and autoclaves. Another service they provided was the re-rubberizing of rollers for the leather and textile industries, and it was an interesting challenge for me to learn these technologies.

After completing a two-year contract in Kenya, I returned to Sri Lanka and joined Associated Motorways Ltd, one of the largest rubber product manufacturing companies, with a wide product range including retreading of public transport and light truck tyres, OTR tyres, bicycle tyres and tubes, and miscellaneous technical rubber products. I served as Chemist in Charge of their well-established QC and Process Control Laboratory for three years before I got a second opportunity to work in Kenya in 1987—this time as Technical and Training Manager at Avon Rubber Company Kenya Ltd, which was engaged in tyre retreading, bicycle tyres, tubes, and rubber floor tiles using the Pirelli design, as well as PVC floor tiles under the Dunlop brand.

I had the invaluable opportunity to work with the Technical Director from the UK, as Avon Kenya was a sister company of Avon Tyres, UK. After the British management left, it was a real challenge to handle the technical and training functions. During my tenure with Avon for almost 12 years, I personally trained a number of technical and supervisory staff in process quality control and cost-reduction programmes. The introduction of precure retreading at Avon Nairobi and Mombasa, with the collaboration of Elgi, India, was one of the most significant achievements, where some managers were also trained in Coimbatore, India. As another area of product diversification, the re-rubberizing of rollers was established as a profitable product category. By the time I concluded my contract in 1998, I had served as General Manager of both Avon and Dunlop.

"Introducing modern quality control and training systems in Kenya's rubber industry was not just a professional challenge, but a transformative journey that turned obstacles into lasting achievements".


SRI LANKA
Convocation
2024

Looking back, what turning point in your career had the most significant impact on your professional journey?

Without any hesitation, I would say that the turning point in my professional career was the opportunity I received to study for the LIRI course. It was a very exhaustive and comprehensive programme, even by today's standards, and equivalent to a degree-level course. I took to the studies like a swan to water. In fact, I was selected by Bata because of my rubber technology studies, despite their basic requirement being an academic degree. Of course, I was paid half the salary of the other five graduate trainees selected with me.

I was the first to pass the LIRI from Bata in 1970, and the management recognized and appreciated this achievement by revising my salary to the graduate level as well, which was a big morale booster. During the two years of my studies, I was fortunate to learn under three very prominent personalities of that time, who are no longer living. It was their sense of commitment and dedication that motivated me, in a certain way, to gradually venture into lecturing and mentoring during the later stages of my professional career.

Manufacturing, Quality, and Consultancy

You've led production and quality initiatives for decades. How have manufacturing practices in the rubber industry evolved during your career?

When reviewing the evolution of rubber products manufacturing, particularly in the Sri Lankan context, over the past six decades, I can highlight some key milestones as follows:

- *1960s to early 1970s*: This was the basic post-independence era, characterized by manual or semi-mechanical methods. The primary focus was on the export of raw rubber as a commodity. Product manufacturing was mainly limited to tyre retreading, general rubber-based products such as mats and footwear, and a few industrial products. A major breakthrough came in the mid-1960s with the establishment of the Ceylon Tyre Corporation in collaboration with Russia, in line with governmental policy at that time.
- L*ate 1970s*: Economic liberalization, foreign investment, and technology transfer encouraged the growth and expansion of export-oriented rubber product manufacturing.
- 1*980s and 1990s*: This period saw diversification into industrial goods and tyres—particularly industrial tyres and gloves. Structured production planning and quality assurance systems such as ISO 9001, SPC, and 5S practices, along with semi-mechanization, spread rapidly throughout the industry. Workforce training became increasingly critical from both productivity and efficiency perspectives.
- *2000s*: Global competition and the need to enhance productivity brought about the introduction of Lean manufacturing, Total Productive Maintenance, and ERP systems. The growth of the medical glove market demanded strict compliance with safety, health, and environmental standards.
- *2010s*: Industrial tyres and gloves emerged as significant export revenue earners. Sustainability practices, eco-friendly production, waste management, and traceability requirements became critical. Computer-aided design, advanced automation, testing, and alignment of employee safety and health with global norms began to permeate the industry.
- *2020s*: The march continues with a focus on Industry 4.0, ESG principles, automation, digitalization, and the gradual integration of AI into large and medium-scale industries.

What role did ISO standards (9001, 14001, 45001) play in transforming rubber manufacturing in Sri Lanka?

ISO 9001 was the first international management system standard to be introduced to the Sri Lankan industry in the mid-1990s. One can observe certain global patterns in the adoption of management concepts, particularly in developing countries, where the initial trickle-down of these concepts was rather slow due to the limited status of ICT. This was then followed by a rapid rush to obtain certifications, either through correctly identifying the strategic importance of management systems for corporate competitiveness, or by blindly following others, simply "keeping up with the Joneses," as the saying goes. I personally know of some companies that pursued certification mainly because it was included among the qualification criteria of certain customers, particularly for government tenders.

My own experience with ISO 9001 began in the year 2000, when I followed the Consultancy Training Programme conducted by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution and the Lead Auditor Training by SGS. These were later complemented by ISO 14001 EMS and the Lead Auditor programmes for OHSAS 18001 (the forerunner of ISO 45001) in 2011.

The impact of management systems on transforming the rubber products manufacturing industry in Sri Lanka has been a varied story. Some companies have successfully leveraged these systems to contribute meaningfully to the Triple Bottom Line of sustainability namely Economic, Environmental, and Social, while many others have obtained certification merely as a symbol of recognition and respect. Ultimately, developing personal competencies in establishing, maintaining, and continually improving business performance has invariably proven to be a vital success factor.

From your experience, what are the most common mistakes companies make when implementing quality and productivity systems, and how can they avoid them?

I would say that providing dynamic leadership by top management through guidance, knowledge dissemination, developing managerial competencies, and appropriate and timely resource allocation is a rather neglected or low-priority area in most failure stories. Allocating proper responsibility and authority to those who can truly deliver results is another area often overlooked.

Overdependence on tools and techniques, without giving due consideration to the human factor, is common in many manufacturing and service organizations. The alignment of vision, mission, and values, and integrating these with the core cultural foundations of an organization, while also respecting traditional national and cultural values is sometimes the least-considered factor. Yet, this alignment can determine long-term sustainability, even if a company may appear to reap short-term financial benefits that look attractive. I would emphasize that these principles are easier said than done, and there are certainly no "quick fixes."

What I have observed in many companies where I have conducted internal audits is that management systems are often carried out as standalone functions. The result is that the organization ends up working for the system, instead of the system working for the organization, producing loads of documents in both hard and soft versions as the main outcome.

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You coordinated a UNIDO project and compiled a Cleaner Production guidebook for the Sri Lankan rubber supply chain. What impact has this project had on the industry?

To put the record straight, I was given the assignment in 2012 to conduct a detailed survey on the current level and potential for implementing Cleaner Production practices in the rubber supply chain starting from the plantations, raw rubber processing, and the manufacture of dry rubber and latex-based products. The funding was facilitated by UNIDO. The scope of my work focused on gathering information about the various processes and practices. At the operational level, most organizations agreed that there were many practical areas where they could save raw materials, water, and energy.

How important is cleaner production and sustainability for the future competitiveness of the rubber sector?

Cleaner Production, which is now re-named as Resource Efficient Cleaner Production (RECP), is a wonderful and practical methodology focusing on the use of raw materials, energy, water, and other utilities in any organization, irrespective of whether it is manufacturing or providing a service.

The core philosophy is reducing at source instead of resorting to end-of-pipe treatments such as reduce, reuse, and recycle, as much as possible. The rubber industry is a high material- and energy-consuming sector and is therefore an ideal candidate for adopting cleaner production practices. Many large, small, and medium companies have implemented RECP with varying levels of success.

Efficient utilization of resources at source helps to reduce the cost of production as well as onsite and offsite waste handling and disposal costs. This directly contributes to the economic bottom line and reduces environmental impacts, thereby contributing to the environmental and social bottom lines of sustainability. Many rubber-based companies are enthusiastically participating in the Annual National Cleaner Production Awards.

"Resource Efficient Cleaner Production is about reducing waste at the source - cutting costs, conserving resources, and minimizing environmental impact all at once."

Reducing at source lowers costs and minimizes environmental impact - making RECP a win-win for the rubber industry."


CARBORUNDUM UNIVERSAL LTD-ELECTRO

During your consultancy with ADB for the National Business Plan (2013), what strategic priorities did you recommend for Sri Lanka's rubber industry?

It was the Sri Lanka Rubber Master Plan. I was one of about 20 members of the team of resource personnel. The project was initiated by the Ministry of Plantation Industries, coordinated by the Sri Lanka Rubber Society, and funded by the ADB.

The key strategic areas in the Master Plan were as follows:

- Expanding the NR supply and ensuring supply security
- Improving productivity and adopting best agricultural practices
- Increasing value addition and product diversification
- Infrastructural development and industry support
- Strengthening MSMEs
- Policy and regulatory mechanisms, including Public-Private Partnerships
- Sustainability, environmental, and social standards
- Capacity building and workforce development
- Enhancing export market growth

Training, Education, and Human Capital Development

You've trained hundreds of professionals over 45 years. What teaching philosophy has guided you in developing the next generation of rubber technologists?

On looking back, I am convinced that the guiding policy in my teaching methodology was, "*learn first and then teach and mentor others to help them do better*." I feel that the root of this philosophy may lie in my shattered dream of becoming a medical doctor during my younger days. I strongly believe that learning is not confined from cradle to grave but goes beyond - from womb to tomb. It is a never-ending process and a lifelong journey.

I started teaching rubber technology at the Plastics and Rubber Institute around 1979 and was also involved in lecturing to rubber technology students at the University of Moratuwa. Later, the knowledge I acquired by qualifying in Work Study, ISO Systems, Cleaner Production, and GMP was utilized in my consultancy work and training workshops. Even at the age of 79, these activities are still continuing.

Many of your trainees now hold senior positions in Sri Lanka and Kenya. How does it feel to see their success, and what do you think enabled them to thrive?

It is with a sense of altruistic joy and satisfaction that I look at the hundreds of personnel who have achieved success in their lives, and the little I was able to contribute to make their lives better. Among this wide group are business entrepreneurs, senior executives, university lecturers, factory supervisors, and floor-level personnel. I am glad that a few of them still speak with high praise for my involvement in training and guiding them.

"Learning is a never-ending journey — from womb to tomb — and teaching is sharing that journey with others."

What gaps do you see today in skill development for the rubber and plastics workforce?

I do not see many issues with knowledge dissemination in the polymer industry today, unlike the situation about 40 years ago. We now virtually have knowledge at our fingertips, at every level—from senior managers to operators on the shop floor. This is amply evident from the proliferation of in-house and off-site training programmes, workshops, seminars, conferences, and symposiums. In fact, there seems to be a collective consciousness globally as far as knowledge is concerned.

Yet, there is a general sense of dissatisfaction in most organizations, large or small, regarding human performance and the soft or latent issues. Most technical and performance problems are ultimately traceable to the most important resource, namely human resources. Lack of empathy, the dominance of basic human weaknesses such as greed, hatred, and self-centeredness, can often be identified as root causes of poor performance in many organizations—including those that are technically advanced—if one conducts a Five Why Analysis.

What role do you think research institutions and universities should play in the next phase of Sri Lanka's rubber industry development?

The congruence of research institutions, academia, and the industry sector is vital for the development of the rubber and polymer industry in Sri Lanka. The importance of R&D and innovation has been discussed at many forums, and it is encouraging to note the positive developments in this area. However, our rate of innovation reaching commercial-scale completion is low compared to other countries in the region.

Sri Lanka's Rubber Industry – Present and Future

How would you describe the current state of Sri Lanka's rubber industry compared to other leading rubber-producing nations in Asia?

Rubber product manufacturing is a vibrant sector, making a significant contribution to Sri Lanka's export earnings. Although upstream raw rubber does not contribute a high export value, the value-added product manufacturing sector has made a greater impact, amounting to about US$ 1.5 billion in 2023 according to available information. The contribution to GDP is about 0.8%, while rubber product exports account for around 8% of Sri Lanka's total export earnings. Employment is also significant, with both upstream plantations and raw rubber processing, as well as downstream product manufacturing, supporting over 400,000 people directly and indirectly. The participation of women in the plantation sector is particularly noteworthy.

Compared to other rubber product manufacturing countries in Asia, Sri Lanka enjoys the position of market leader in industrial tyres—a position it must guard carefully. Looking ahead, growth will depend on increasing value addition, improving competitiveness through cost reduction and technology, and expanding raw rubber output from plantations. Ensuring favorable trade conditions, such as tariffs and market access, is another key aspect.


HIGH COMMISS ALAYSIA
Colombo,

What do you see as Sri Lanka's main strengths in the global rubber supply chain?

Strengths leading to competitiveness are not permanent or static, as all conditioned phenomena are impermanent and have a certain time scale. Strengths that served well in the past may no longer be valid for the future. For example, the conventional view that the availability of natural rubber in the country is a strength is no longer true, as many industrial tyre and glove manufacturers now have to import natural rubber. However, Sri Lanka's latex crepe is still reputed to be the cleanest grade of natural rubber, technically suitable for biomedical applications. Yet, this grade remains a commodity, as local value addition through product diversification is minimal, with exporters mainly catering to high-end niche markets.

A skilled workforce and the availability of some of the best technical expertise are definite advantages, thanks to the pioneering efforts of the Plastics and Rubber Institute for over 65 years, later supplemented by university-level academic education. The Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka, the first of its kind in the world with a history of over 150 years, also has tremendous potential.

The strategic location of Sri Lanka at the crossroads of shipping routes offers clear logistical advantages. In addition, the Sri Lankan rubber industry has a strong sustainability orientation, with both the Government and private sector promoting green manufacturing.

What are the key challenges Sri Lanka must overcome to remain competitive in the global rubber market?

The Sri Lankan rubber product manufacturing industry faces several structural and market-related challenges in sustaining global competitiveness. The declining supply of plantation rubber, which dropped from 100,000 MT in 2014 to 64,000 MT in 2023, is a serious problem.

Higher production costs—both in plantation rubber and product manufacturing—are another major issue, as energy and labour costs are significantly higher compared to regional competitors.

Sustainability and compliance demands, such as the EUDR, carbon footprint requirements, and tightening ethical labour standards, are increasingly affecting both the plantation and manufacturing sectors in the region.

Infrastructural and logistical inadequacies, including port delays, fluctuating freight costs, and unreliable energy supply, are further undermining competitiveness.

Rising competition from Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and China presents another serious challenge, while policy and investment gaps in R&D, along with constraints in financial accessibility for MSMEs, remain noticeable issues.

How has Sri Lanka performed in balancing traditional rubber exports with value-added rubber products?

A review of the pre- and immediate post-independence eras shows that natural rubber, which was traditionally a commodity export, has been gradually transformed into manufactured products, which now account for about 80% of local NR production. The open economic policies introduced after 1977 were instrumental in this transformation process.

With increasing competition from countries like Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam, where should Sri Lanka focus to differentiate itself?

This is a million-dollar question, and I am aware that it is being discussed at state, institutional, and private sector forums, either conducted collectively or individually. Of late, I have not been involved in any such forums, and hence I am honestly not in a position to offer a well-informed answer. However, I feel that Sri Lanka cannot depend on conventional approaches of cost and quantity or volume, but must instead focus on quality, sustainability, and niche markets. We should understand that this is easier said than done, and it will require a concerted effort from all stakeholders, with the Government acting as a facilitator.

How important is investment in automation, digitalization, and Industry 4.0 for Sri Lanka's rubber sector?

These are undoubtedly and unarguably the most essential prerequisites for the industry. They should be judiciously adopted, rather than simply joining the 'bandwagon.'

In your view, what should be the vision for Sri Lanka's rubber industry for 2040?

A vision suitable for the rubber industry in Sri Lanka will invariably include the well-trodden catchwords such as global positioning, sustainability leadership, innovation and technology, and inclusive growth.

It would be overly prophetic for a person in his sunset years to make any noteworthy predictions. However, I feel that some prominence should be given to trust, respect, and mutual understanding—factors that are currently lacking—while moving forward with innovation and product development. Inclusive growth should focus on both physical and spiritual well-being.

Government Policy and Institutional Role

You were involved in preparing the National Business Plan for the rubber industry. Looking back, which goals have been achieved, and what remains unfinished?

The Sri Lanka Rubber Master Plan was an ambitious initiative encompassing all sectors of the rubber value chain. It contained several brilliant strategies and programmes aimed at making the rubber industry in Sri Lanka sustainable. The success of any plan, however, depends on the collaborative, cooperative, and coordinated efforts of the stakeholders.

The Finite Element Analysis and Simulation Centre (FEASC) was launched at the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka in August 2019. While it continued operations by providing design support to the industry, administrative and operational viability issues made it unfeasible over the course of five years. To my knowledge, some of the other projects are still progressing with varying levels of success.


SLTMOBITEL

What policy or government support is most needed to strengthen the rubber industry in the coming years?

Due to its high value addition, rubber product manufacturing was identified as a "thrust industry" around the year 2000, and various initiatives were taken by different stakeholder state institutions. One of the main issues, however, is the lack of proper coordination between these institutions, which has resulted in the absence of a unified direction.

Over the past 25 years, there have been several changes in government, but I continue to wonder whether a consistent and unified policy has ever been in place. This lack of continuity has led to duplication of effort and inefficient use of resources.

The key problems threatening sustainable growth in the rubber industry—namely low plantation productivity, high energy costs, duty structures, funding challenges (especially for SMEs), and limited export market access—remain perennial issues.

How do you see the role of institutes, associations, and professional networks in strengthening Sri Lanka's rubber and plastics industries?

The various institutions, associations, and professional networks play a vital role. However, the drawback I notice is that they often work in isolation, pursuing their own agendas, and efforts to unify them have met with only limited success. Communication, trust, and mutual respect are the important ingredients that should be gradually ingrained and nurtured.

Entrepreneurship in the Rubber Sector

What qualities do you believe are essential for entrepreneurs to succeed in Sri Lanka's rubber industry?

I can only make my observations and comments based on my personal experience with some of my students and colleagues who became successful entrepreneurs. Identifying opportunities by thinking differently, consistent hard work and perseverance, and providing leadership with humility are, in my opinion, some of the key prerequisites.

From your experience, what role does mentorship and skill development play in nurturing new entrepreneurs in the industry?

It is said that everyone needs support and guidance for whatever they do in life. Mentorship and skill development are basic ingredients that young and potential entrepreneurs need. In return, they should have the right mindset to respect experience and maturity, and be willing to seek guidance instead of adopting a "know-it-all" attitude.

What advice would you give to the next generation of Sri Lankan entrepreneurs who wish to build globally competitive rubber businesses?

"Think differently, be persistent and consistent, respect humanity, build mutually beneficial and genuine relationships, and above all, do not forget the core values of our religious and cultural foundations—without which you will not have an identity."

"The worthiest gift one can offer is knowledge that helps others find solutions within themselves."


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MAGINE of a brush, BBV

Leadership, Philosophy, and Legacy

As former President of the Plastics & Rubber Institute of Sri Lanka, what were your proudest achievements in that role?

I humbly regard all that I have done for the PRISL as proud achievements. My association with the PRISL began around 1969, when I joined as a Student Member and passed the L.I.R.I (UK) in 1970, with the third-best performance from Sri Lanka. (The first two have since migrated overseas.) I had the good fortune to study rubber technology under three well-respected and dedicated teachers with no self-interest, whose example I endeavored to emulate throughout my career.

I then proceeded to complete the Tech PRI and the Grad PRI, and I am the only person to have climbed the ladder gradually and step by step at PRISL until I became President of this well-respected institution in 2024. My active association with PRISL began as a Committee Member in 1978, and I started lecturing in 1979. I still remember conducting free revision lessons at my home for some students who later excelled in their own fields.

After returning from Nairobi, Kenya in 1998, I rejoined the institute in 2006 as an Executive Council Member and played a key role in the Education, Editorial, Workshops/Seminars, and Social Committees. I was instrumental in bridging the gaps that existed with the plastics sector, and in 2012 I coordinated the first Complast Exhibition, which later evolved into a large-scale event in subsequent years. I also spearheaded the establishment of MOUs with IRI India, PRI Malaysia, and AIPMA India.

On the personal side, I take pride in having published articles in Rubber Asia and Tyre Trends (published by PIN 365 India), which became the basis for the first-ever book publication of PRISL, under the title "*Insights for Managerial Competence*".

During my career at Bata and Associated Motorways, I had the opportunity to train and mentor many rubber technology and graduate trainees, and most of them have gone on to do well in their subsequent careers and walks of life. At present, I am serving on the Judges Panel of the National Productivity Secretariat for the National Productivity Awards 2025/2026.

I have always followed the famous Chinese saying: "*If you give a fish to someone, you feed him only once. But if you teach him how to fish, you show him a way in life*."

Your career spans both industry leadership and counselling in Buddhist and Ayurvedic psychology. How have these philosophies influenced your professional approach?

I had an inclination to read about religion and literature from my early adulthood. However, my focus later shifted to technical and professional matters in the industry throughout the major part of my working life. Even so, I never gave up the habit of reading.

While engaging in small consultancies during my retired life, and being involved with PRISL as its Secretary, Vice President, and finally President, I managed to find free time to study Buddhism and Ayurveda Counselling, eventually obtaining a Master's in Buddhist Studies. The knowledge I gained was deeply insightful about human nature, as well as social and organizational behavior. It has helped me to improve interpersonal relationships, which I believe are the cornerstone of both success and failure.

What do you believe is the balance between technical knowledge and personal development for professionals in the rubber industry?

Life is always a balancing act, as circumstances and conditions are constantly changing in line with the principle of impermanence. Young professionals today, under pressure at their workplaces to meet profit and performance goals, are going through stressful conditions. It is not their fault. However, to be successful, a suitable balance needs to be struck between the following dimensions of well-being:

- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Social Health
- Spiritual Health

If you could give one piece of advice to young professionals entering the rubber sector today, what would it be?

It is the same advice that I used to give to young trainees many years ago:

"*You are entering a relatively dirty, difficult, and dangerous vocation. Dedication, commitment, and determination are essential to master the nuts and bolts of the industry. And never forget humanity, honesty, integrity, gratefulness, and respect*."

After 57 years in the field, what continues to drive your passion and commitment to the rubber industry?

Lifelong attachment to one career is a somewhat alien concept to the modern generation. As mentioned at the beginning, my entry into the rubber industry was not by design. Yet, it helped me to build both a career and a destiny. Hence, I continue to be of assistance whenever my lifelong experiences are required or requested.

I am also continuing my studies in Counselling to gain more knowledge and insights in my sunset years, which I hope will be helpful to others—guiding them to understand and be mindful of their thoughts and emotions, so that they themselves can find solutions to their problems.

As the Buddha once stated, the worthiest gift one can offer is the gift of dhamma, or knowledge.

"True success lies in balancing physical, mental, social, and spiritual health amid life's impermanence."

"Entrepreneurship requires vision, perseverance, and above all, leadership with humility."

"Young entrepreneurs must respect experience and seek guidance, not assume a know-it-all attitude."

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Formulation giving you headaches?

Rheonic is an Italian engineering company founded in 2015 with a clear mission: to provide consulting services and technical partnerships to the rubber industry in the following areas:

It

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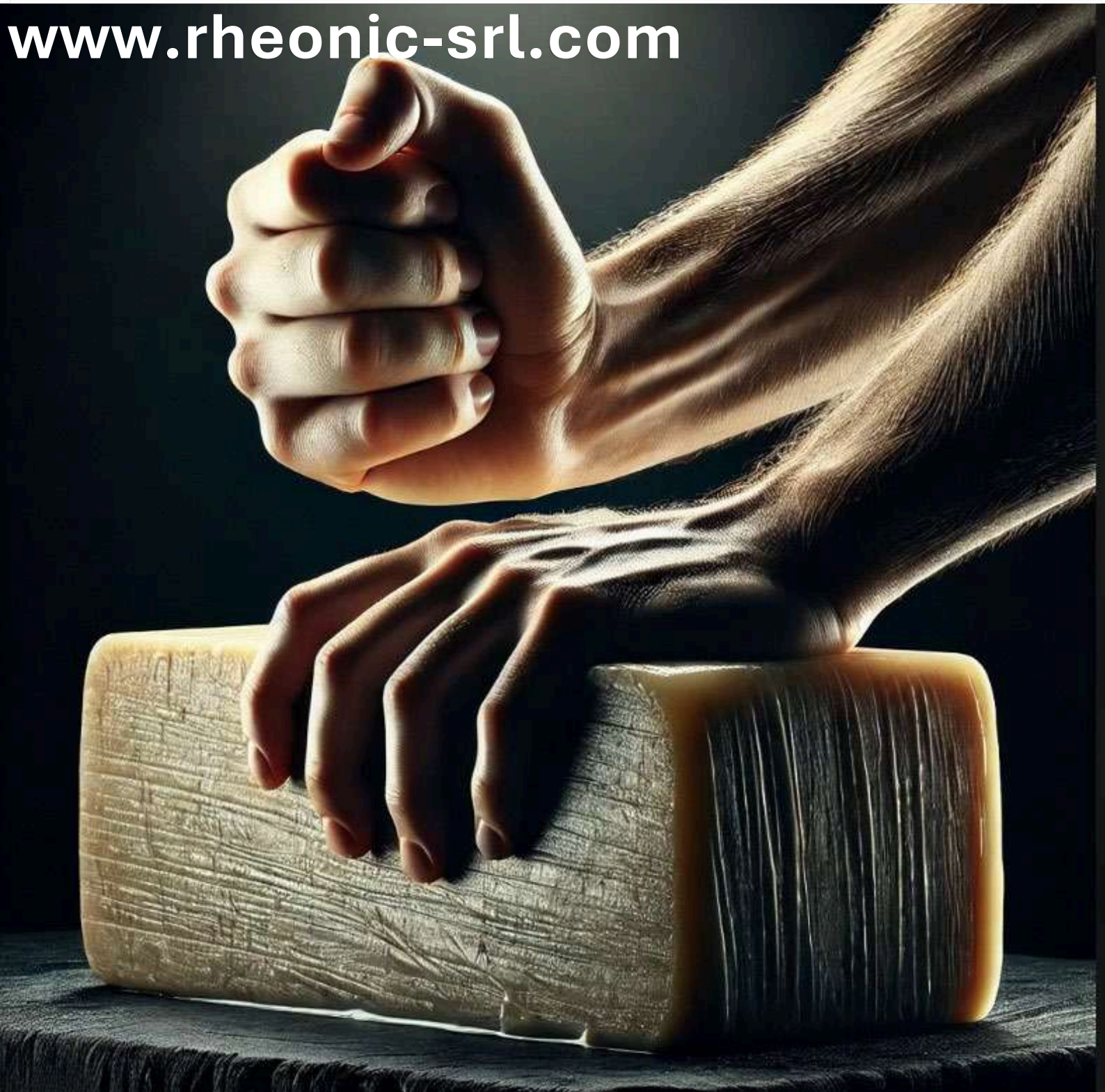

RUBBER Review

Issue 19 | 29 Sept - 5 Oct 2025

IRMRI Spotlight

भारतीय रबड़ सामग्री अनुसंधान संस्थान

INDIAN RUBBER MATERIALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

IRMRI

INDIAN RUBBER MATERIALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Formerly known as Indian Rubber Manufactures Research Association(IRMRA)

An Autonomous Institute, Under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India
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Email: info@irmra.org /www.irmri.org/022 6787 3200 (19 Lines)

Indian Rubber Materials Research Institute (IRMRI) formerly known as Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association (IRMRA), which was established in 1958 is an internationally well-known Centre of Excellence for providing technological services to both Non-tyre & Tyre sectors.

It is an autonomous institute under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India.

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IRMRI Hosts Successful 2-Day Training on Rubber Compounding & Testing

The Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Institute (IRMRI), Thane, successfully conducted a 2-Day Training Programme on "Compounding and Testing of Rubber Products" on 29–30 September 2025. The programme began with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, symbolizing the spirit of knowledge sharing, and was inaugurated by Mr. Sethu Madhavan (Deputy Director), Dr. Bharat Kapgate (Deputy Director), and Dr. Shibulal (Assistant Director). Inspiring opening remarks were followed by the first technical lecture delivered by Dr. Bharat Kapgate, with subsequent sessions by eminent faculty members including Dr. Santhosh Jagdale (Sr. Scientific Officer), Dr. Shibulal (Assistant Director), and Ms. Suhasini Katke (Jr. Scientific Officer). The training attracted enthusiastic participants from across India, creating a diverse learning environment. Over the two days, the sessions covered key aspects of rubber compounding, testing methodologies, troubleshooting, and practical insights, making the programme highly valuable and well appreciated by the attendees.

IRMRI is Delighted to Announce MoU with Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology, Chennai

IRMRI is delighted to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology (RIT), Chennai, marking a significant milestone in advancing collaboration between industry and academia. The MoU aims to foster strong cooperation in research, training, and knowledge sharing within the field of rubber technology and allied areas. Representing IRMRI at the signing were Mr. Paulvannan – Sr. Deputy Director, Dr. K. Rajkumar, Dr. Sheikh – Assistant Director, and Mr. Saravanan – Senior Engineer, while RIT was represented by Dr. P.K. Nagarajan – Principal, Dr. R. Maheswari – Vice Principal, Dr. N. Pragadish – Head of Department, Dr. G. Muthu – Head of Department, and Dr. G. Suresh – Program Coordinator. This collaboration is expected to create new opportunities for students and researchers to gain practical exposure in rubber processing, testing, and innovation, while also enabling joint workshops, training programmes, and research initiatives. By combining IRMRI's industrial expertise with RIT's academic excellence, this partnership will play a vital role in nurturing skills, advancing technologies, and promoting innovation in the rubber sector.

Invited Talk at TechnoBiz EPDM Conference 2025, Chennai

Dr. Mohammed Saleem, Senior Scientific Officer at IRMRI, delivered an insightful talk on "Modified EPDM Rubber for Sustainable Material Innovation." His presentation shed light on novel approaches and practical strategies that support the development of eco-friendly materials within the rubber sector. The conference served as a vibrant platform, bringing together leading experts from both industry and academia to engage in meaningful discussions on technical advancements, emerging applications, and strategic opportunities in EPDM elastomer science and engineering. A key highlight of the event was the emphasis on cross-disciplinary collaboration, underscoring its critical role in shaping the future direction of the materials industry and driving innovation towards sustainability.

Weatherometer

Introduction about Weatherometer : A Weatherometer is a sophisticated laboratory instrument designed to simulate long-term environmental exposure in a controlled setting. By replicating conditions such as sunlight, moisture, and temperature fluctuations, it accelerates the aging process, enabling manufacturers to assess material durability and performance under harsh weathering conditions. This ensures products meet stringent quality standards and perform reliably in real-world applications across various industries. In IRMRI, the Q-SUN Xe-3 machine is used.

Standards and Their Purpose

- ASTM D 4587-11: defines UV and condensation testing procedures to assess paint and coating durability under weathering.
- ASTM G 151-10: guides accelerated weathering tests using artificial light for plastics and other materials.
- ISO 4892-2: Outlines xenon-arc exposure methods for plastics and coatings to simulate sunlight and weathering effects.
- ISO 16474-2: Defines xenon-arc testing protocols for paints and varnishes, focusing on UV resistance and color stability.
- ISO 105-B02: Tests color fastness of textiles under artificial light, simulating sunlight exposure.
- ISO 105-B04: Evaluates textile color fastness under artificial weathering, including UV and moisture.
- ASTM 750-12: Standard Practice for Rubber Deterioration using artificial weathering apparatus.

Uses and Benefits: The Q-Sun Xenon Test Model Xe-3 measures color fading, gloss retention, surface degradation, mechanical strength, and flexibility in materials such as rubbers, plastics, coatings, paints, leather, and textiles under UV light, moisture, and temperature cycles, by ASTM and ISO standards. It predicts long-term performance, identifying issues such as cracking or discoloration, thereby benefiting industries like automotive, textiles, coatings, plastics, and leather by ensuring durable, high-quality products.

Sectors Benefits: Rubber, textiles, paints &coatings, plastics, and leather industries.

Contact us: Email: veerappan.karthikeyan@irmra.org / ab@irmra.org
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Wuxi Double Elephant Rubber & Plastics Machinery Co., Ltd （DE） affiliated with Jiangsu Double Elephant Group, covering an area of 100, 000 square meters , with over 40 years of history , is a modernized technology enterprise which is engaged in R&D, manufacture and sales and after-sales service in the field of Rubber & Plastics Machinery .

We are specialized in the production of rubber and plastics machinery equipment: calender and auxiliary machine series, open mill series, mixing kneader series, rubber extruder series, rotary curing series, wide rubber sheet extrude calendering line, rubber conveyor belt calendering line, tire inner liner calendering line, PVC artificial leather/ film/rigid sheet calendering line, PVC flooring calendering line etc.

Our Products are very popular in China and have been exported all over the world, such as Europe, the United States , Japan, Southeast Asia, India, Turkey, South America, etc. In rubber machinery field, DE has established a good partnerships with domestic R&D institute , large scale tire enterprise, rubber product manufacturers such as Beijing R & D Institute of Rubber Industry , Guiling rubber industry R&D institute, Bridgestone (Japan), Toyo Tire (Japan), Yokohama(Japan), Continental Tire (Germany),Michelin (France), Trelleborg (Sweden),Camso(Canada),Kumho Tire (Korea), Apollo(India),MRF （India） ,CST Tire(Taiwan), Kenda Tire(Taiwan),Linglong Tire, Triangle Tire, General Science Technology, Wanli Tire, Boton Technology , etc.

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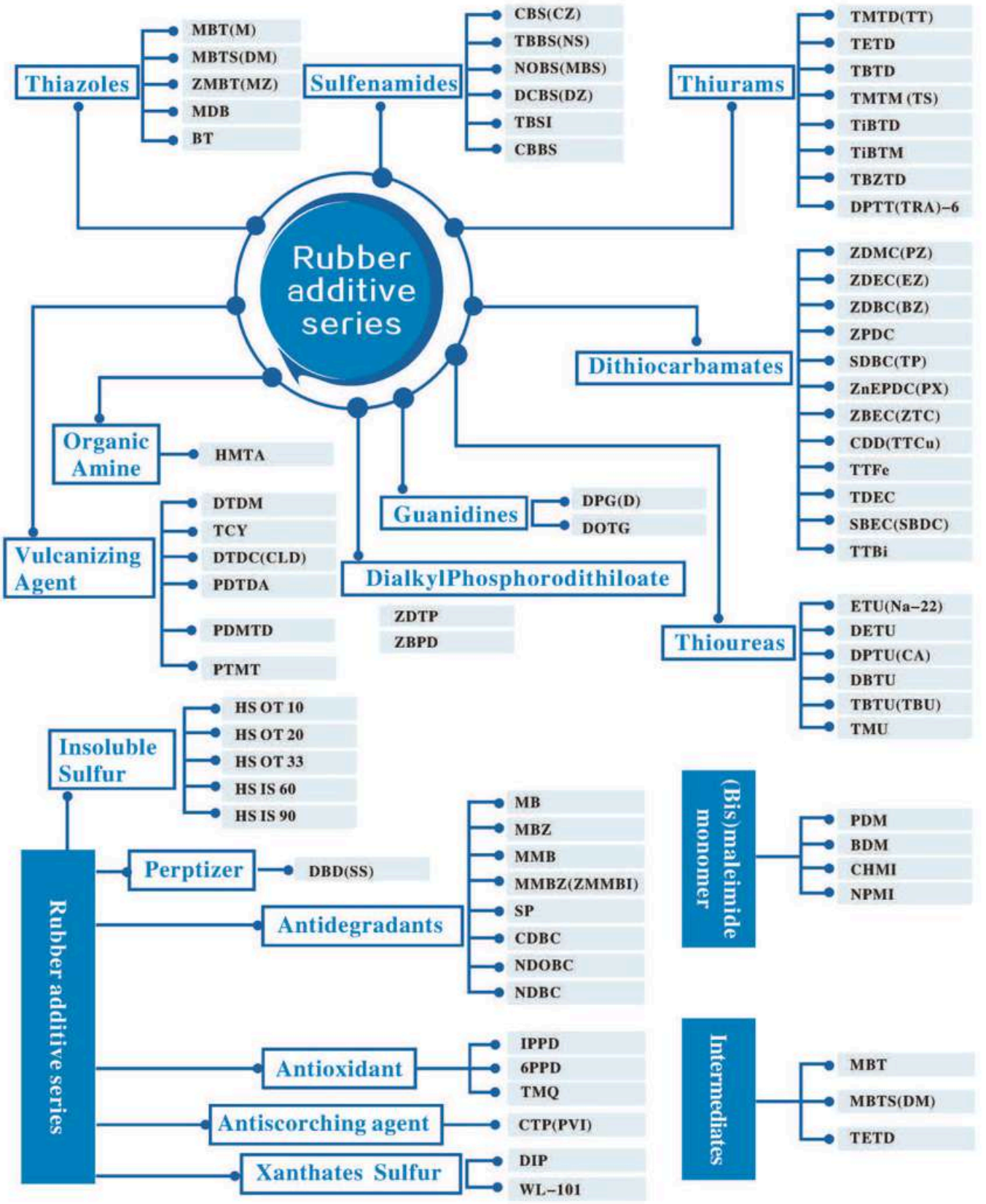

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About Us

QingDao Xiang Run Hao Import and Export Co., ltd (Former name is Qingdao RuiTongFa rubber machinery works, which is founded in 2003) is a professional manufacturer for rubber machinery and rubber moulds such as rubber injection machine, vacuum plate vulcanizing press and automatic plate vulcanizing press, rubber joint machine. We exported rubber machine and rubber moulds to many countries such as India, Chile, Belarus, South America, South korea, South-East Asia, Japan and Russia etcs.

The total export amount is up to more than ten million US dollars.

Through many year's development, constant research and inovation, we became a bigger company with several factories to producing Automatic Vulcanizing Machine, Rubber Injection Molding Machine, Mixing Mill kneader, many kinds of rubber moulds and rubber products. We also supply technology service, rubber compound formula and moulds designing according to custmers requirements and production samples. We wish to co-operate with all customers on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

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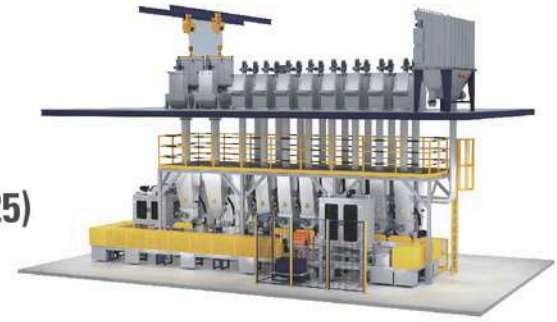

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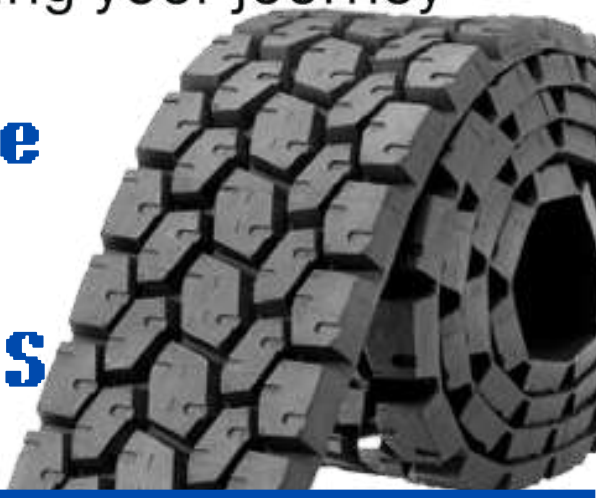

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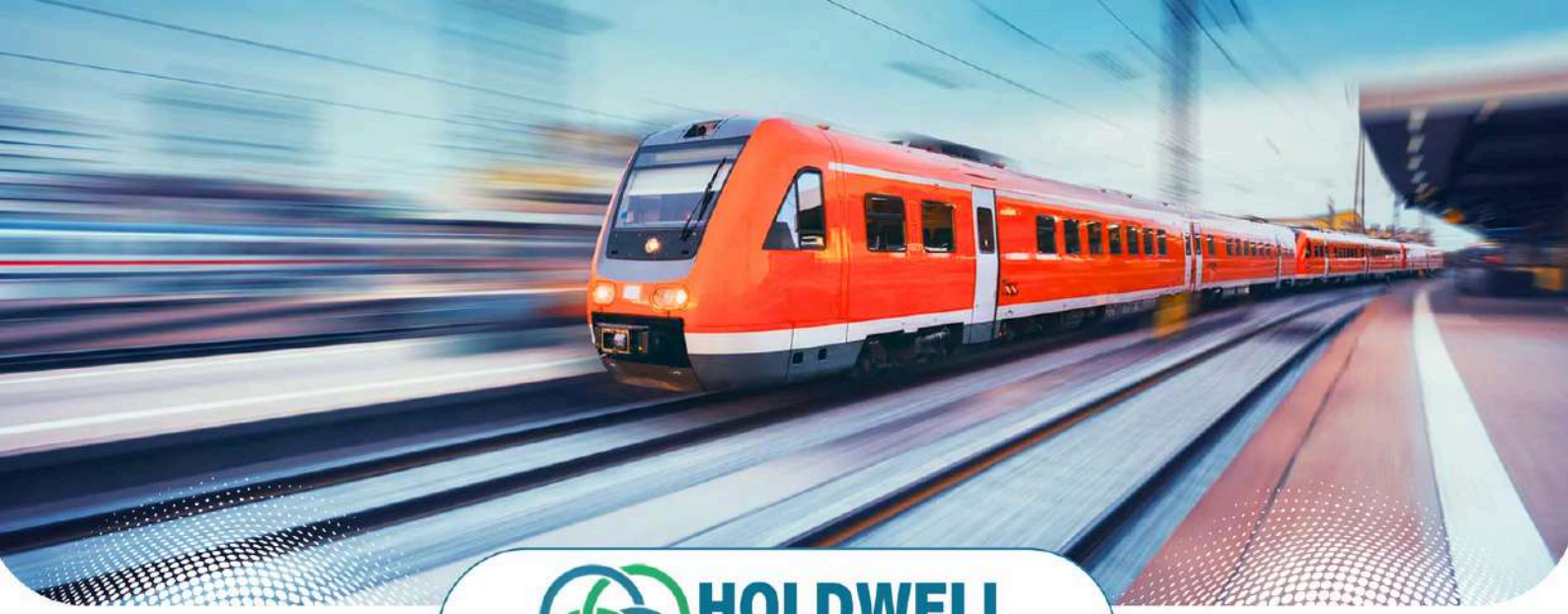

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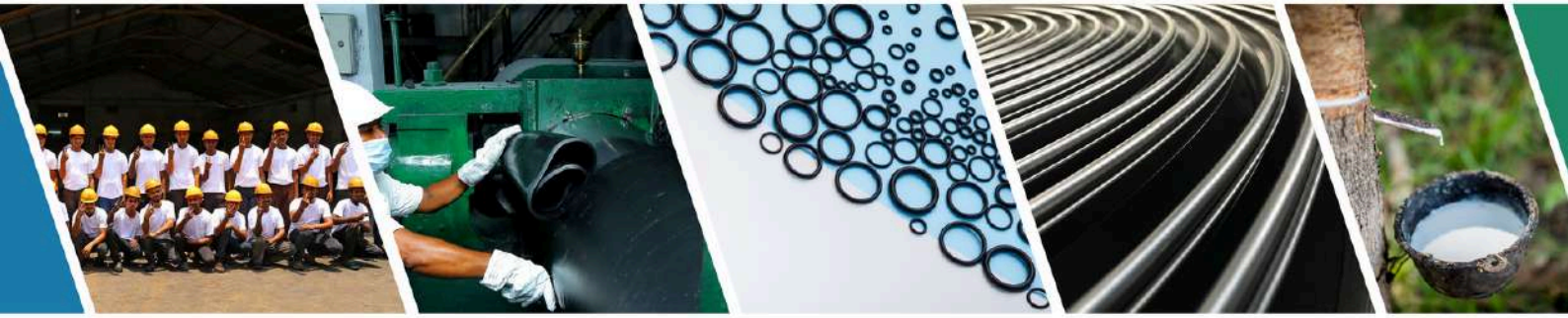

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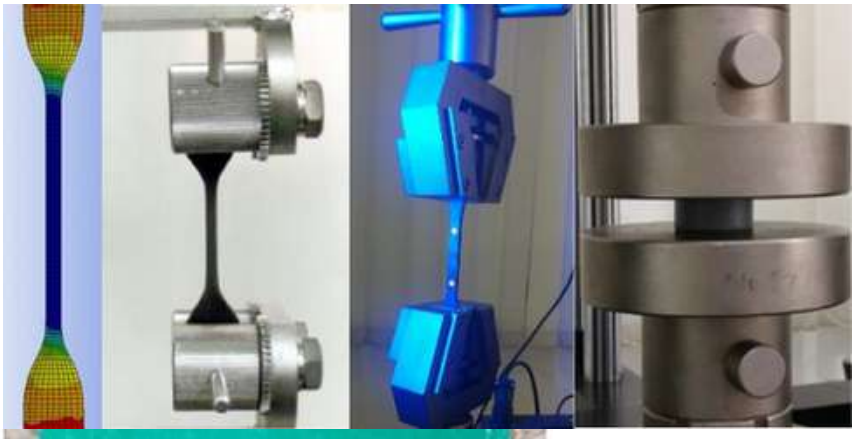

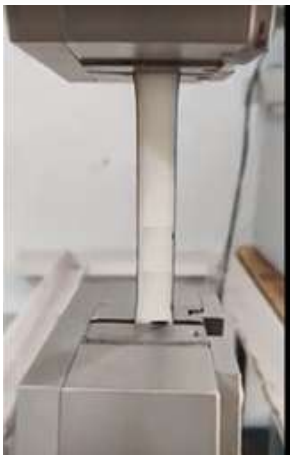

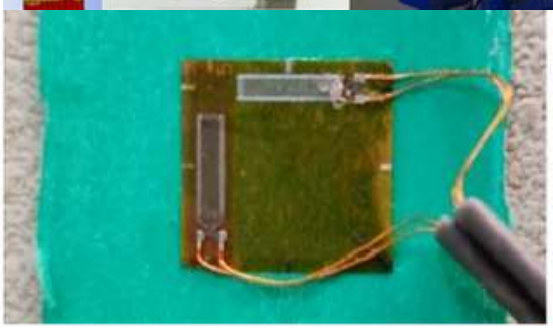

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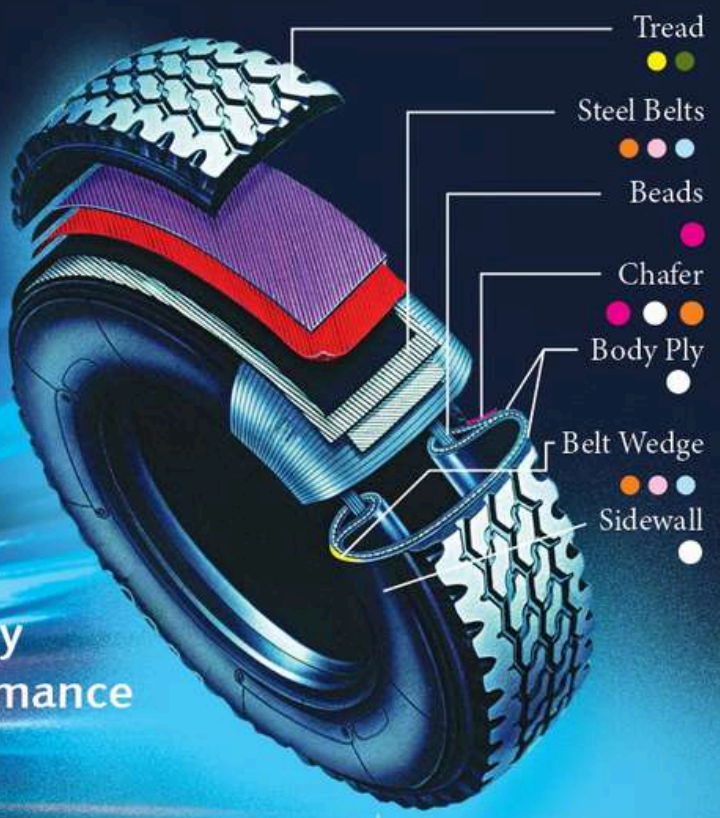

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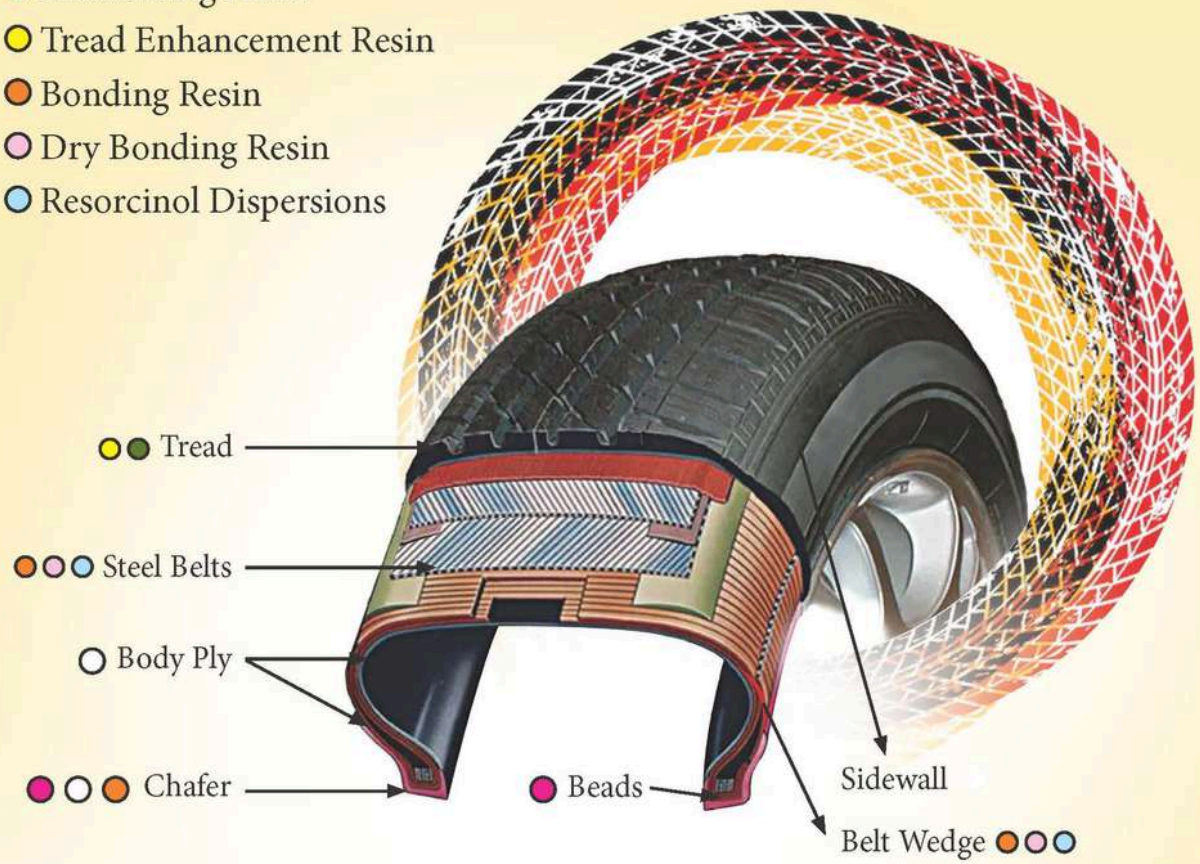

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RUBBER BUSINESS NEWS

RUBBER Review

Sustainable TPE Materials Launched for Trendy and Functional E-Bike Handles

Why choose sustainable TPE for e-bike handles? The THERMOLAST® R RC/UV/AP series offers lightweight design, enhanced grip, and up to 40% recycled content—delivering durability, comfort, and resistance to UV and chemicals for modern micromobility.

Lighter, energy-efficient, and innovative designs— these are the latest trends in electric bikes (e-bikes), expected to drive record growth in the micromobility market amid growing demand for sustainable and affordable transportation solutions. Technological advancements are making way for lighter e-bikes with more novel features, suited for both urban streets and off-road terrain. Engineering materials such as thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs) are helping to reduce the weight of e-bike models—some weighing as little as half of the typical 60-pound designs. These materials also provide the mechanical strength and chemical resistance needed to enhance e-bike components for better performance and overall user satisfaction.

As e-bike categories diversify, handlebar designs have been modified to improve rider control and safety. KRAIBURG TPE, a global manufacturer of thermoplastic elastomers (TPE) and customized material solutions for various industries, offers the THERMOLAST® R RC/UV/AP series, a sustainable TPE solution developed specifically for e-bike handles, providing durability, comfortable grip, and eco-friendly advantages in handle applications.

Soft touch, reliable grip, lightweight build for better control

The THERMOLAST® R RC/UV/AP series offers a soft-touch, non-sticky surface that keeps e-bike handles comfortable even with sweaty hands. These properties also enhance control and maneuverability while encouraging proper hand and wrist positioning for improved ergonomics. Its broad hardness range, from 50 to 90 Shore A, allows for a customizable grip feel, from soft and cushioned to firm and responsive, without compromising safety or function. Its lightweight, low-density formulation helps reduce overall e-bike weight, while a black finish ensures a consistent, modern appearance.

Sustainable TPEs for High-Performance Applications

The THERMOLAST® R RC/UV/AP series is fully recyclable and formulated with 15% to 40% recycled content to meet eco-friendly material requirements, particularly in the micromobility sector. Designed for e-bike applications, it offers UV, chemical, and weather resistance, along with reliable adhesion to polypropylene (PP) for efficient multi-component injection molding; and low-density substrates. Its temperature stability up to 90°C ensures performance even after prolonged outdoor use. The series' durability was validated through a two-year Florida exposure test, demonstrating its resilience in harsh outdoor environments.

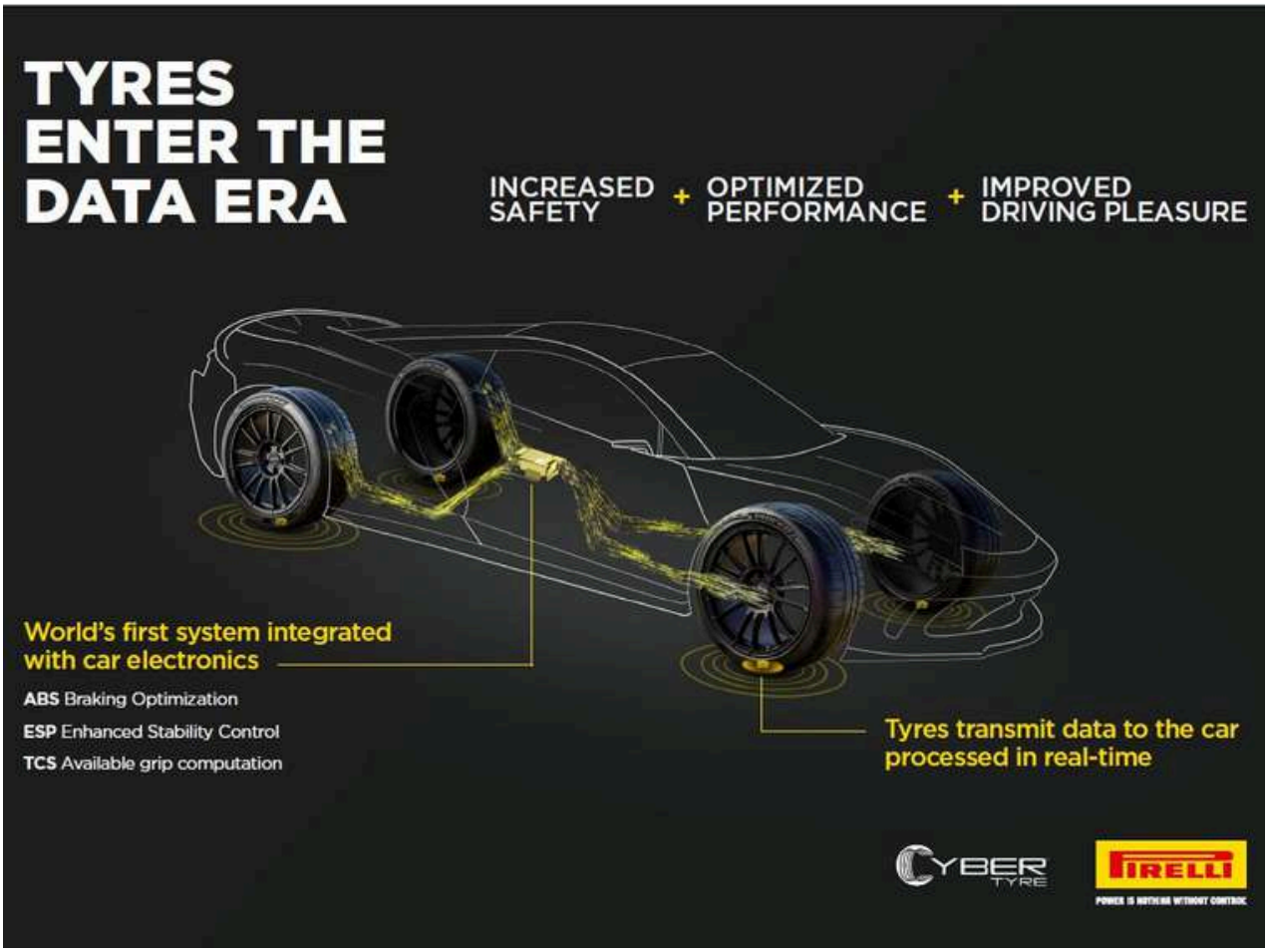
Continental is the first tire manufacturer to use new sustainable rubber additive from LANXESS

Continental is the first tire manufacturer to use the new Vulkanox HS Scopeblue rubber additive from LANXESS. This is the more sustainable, ISCC PLUS-certified version of the proven additive Vulkanox HS (TMQ). The product reliably protects rubber compounds during vulcanization from influences such as oxygen and heat.

Steffen Ryssel, Head of Purchasing at Continental Tires, says: “At Continental Tires, we are continuously working to improve the environmental performance of our products. Collaborations like the one with LANXESS and the use of innovative rubber additives such as Vulkanox HS Scopeblue, help us move closer to our goal of using over 40 percent renewable and recycled materials in our tires by 2030.”

Compared to the conventionally manufactured product, Vulkanox HS Scopeblue has a CO2 footprint that is more than 30 percent lower. LANXESS achieves this by using sustainable bio-circular acetone and renewable energies in production. The overall chemical structure of the additive remains unchanged. This means that tire manufacturers do not need to adapt their production processes. “We are delighted that Continental, a premium manufacturer, has chosen our Vulkanox HS Scopeblue for its products. This shows that our innovative additives are recognized and valued in the industry,” says Dr. Jens-Hendrik Fischer, Head of LANXESS’ Rhein Chemie business unit. “With solutions like these, we support our customers in developing the best possible products while achieving their climate goals.”

Aston Martin to adapt Pirelli Cyber Tyre Technology



Cyber Tyre is the first intelligent system leveraging both hardware and software data to optimise driving and vehicle performance – enabled by Pirelli's bespoke algorithms

Aston Martin will integrate the technology, exclusively created by Pirelli, which enables the addition of new integrated functionalities into the vehicle's electronic control systems, thanks to a collaboration with Bosch Engineering

Pirelli and Aston Martin have agreed to collaborate on the integration of Pirelli's exclusive Cyber Tyre technology into the British ultra-luxury performance brand's future vehicles. Cyber Tyre is the first system in the world, able to collect data and information from sensors located directly in the tyres themselves, process that data with Pirelli's proprietary software and algorithms and, in real time, communicate with the vehicle's electronics to create new functionalities integrated within the driving and control systems. Cyber Tyre, thanks to the cooperation with Bosch Engineering, will be fully integrated within the electronic architecture that governs the vehicle's dynamics in future Aston Martin models. Pirelli Cyber Tyre technology enables the car to gather crucial information from the tyres via sensors positioned in the inner part of the tread. This information, processed with Pirelli's exclusive algorithms, is transmitted to an electronic control unit which optimises the vehicle's dynamics. This way the main electronic dynamic driving systems performance - including ESP, ABS and traction control - are enhanced by a comprehensive set of tyre data not previously available. Both Aston Martin and Pirelli are dedicated to creating incredible ultra-luxury performance sports cars and the addition of Pirelli's Cyber Tyre system is a further technology step enabling Aston Martin's class leading performance.

New city bus tire launched with high share of renewable and recycled materials

Continental is launching the new Conti Urban HA 5 NXT city bus tire at the leading trade fair, Busworld Europe, in Brussels. The Conti Urban HA 5 NXT is the manufacturer's most advanced city bus tire to date: up to 60 percent* of the materials used are renewable, recycled and ISCC PLUS** mass-balance-certified. By reducing rolling resistance by 25 percent, Continental enables electric buses to operate more efficiently and extend their range by up to 15 percent. At the same time, a newly developed tread compound delivers up to 15 percent higher mileage compared to the Conti Urban HA 3, while still maintaining the proven EU label class B rating for wet grip.

Presentation at Busworld Europe

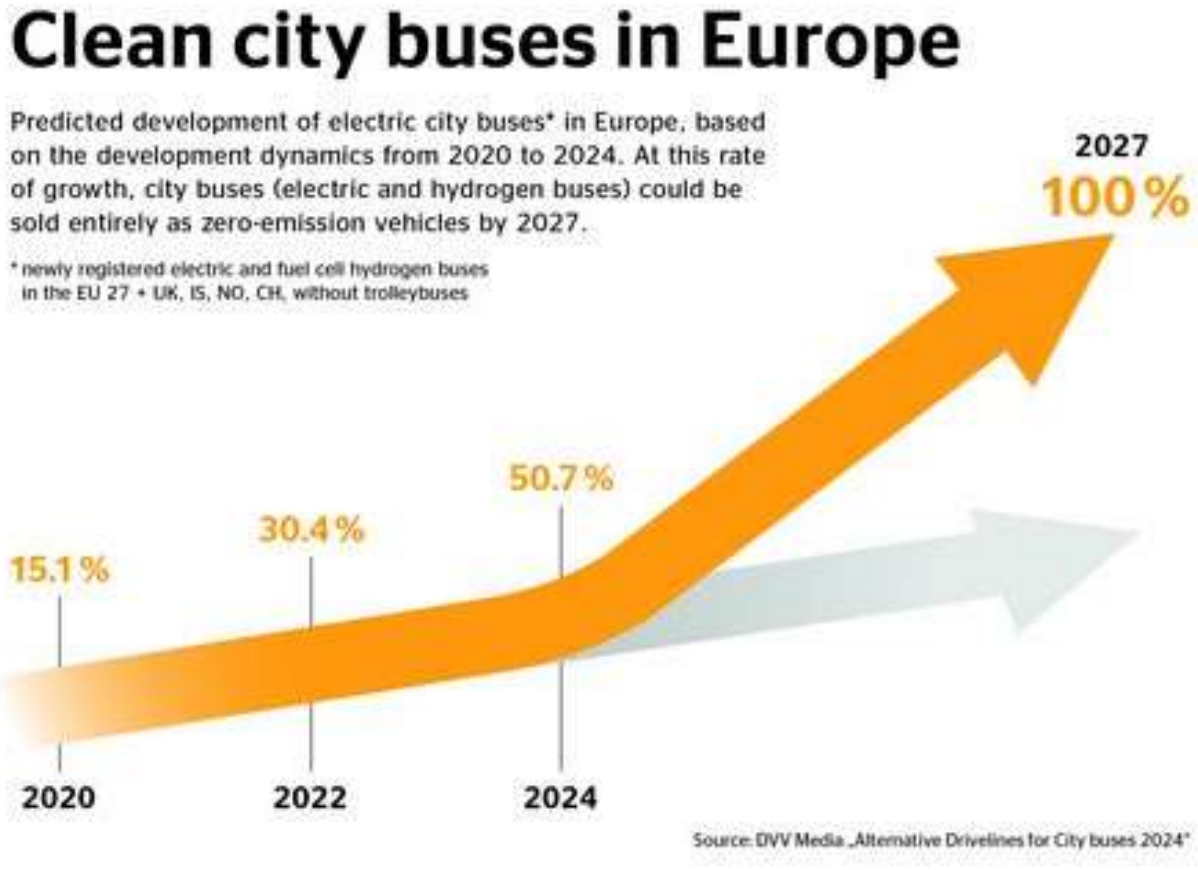
Continental is placing the new city bus tire at the center of its brand presence at Busworld Europe in Brussels: "This major industry gathering is an excellent platform to present the Conti Urban HA 5 NXT to our original equipment customers, fleet operators, transport companies, and also the trade public," says *Leo Kolodziej*, Head of Original Equipment Bus and Truck Tires EMEA at Continental. The organizers expect more than 40,000 visitors from October 4 to 9, 2025.

ISCC PLUS: Complete traceability of mass-balanced-certified materials

With up to 60 percent* renewable, recycled, and ISCC PLUS mass-balanced-certified materials, the Conti Urban HA 5 NXT is ideal for fleets looking for an efficient solution for urban traffic requirements. “In addition to the transformation to climate-friendly local public transport, this also includes familiar challenges such as curbs, frequent traffic lights, and driving in narrow streets," says Hinnerk Kaiser, Head of Product Development Bus and Truck Tires EMEA at Continental. The International Sustainability and Carbon Certification** (ISCC) was founded in 2010 as part of a multi-stakeholder initiative and is a leading global certification system for promoting a traceable, sustainable, deforestation-free, and climate-friendly supply chain. The ISCC PLUS*** standard specifically supports the transition to a circular economy and bioeconomy. This voluntary certification standard validates the sustainability characteristics of alternative raw materials along the entire supply chain, from origin to end user.

New city bus tire demonstrates focus on urban change

The tire manufacturer is consistently aligning its development for the bus segment with the megatrends of urbanization and emission-free mobility. According to the EU authority Eurostat, around 80 percent of Europeans will live in urban centers by 2030. This makes low-noise and low-emission transport solutions and digital traffic management systems indispensable. The ambitious EU climate targets and new regulations are reinforcing this development. According to the European Commission, only zero-emission buses will be newly registered from 2030. In 2024, 50 percent of all newly registered city buses in the EU were already clean (source: DVV Media „Alternative Drivelines for City buses 2024“). In countries such as the Netherlands, Denmark, Slovenia, Ireland, Finland, and Portugal, this figure was 100 percent.



Progress through material selection, durability, and energy efficiency

The new city bus tire helps fleet operators and vehicle manufacturers meet both environmental and operational requirements. “Our customers expect solutions that are both environmentally and economically sound – in both original equipment and the replacement business. The Conti Urban HA 5 NXT meets these expectations with a balanced concept combining resource-saving material selection, high energy efficiency, and a long service life,” explains Kolodziej.

Progress through a traceable supply chain of renewable and recycled raw materials

Particularly noteworthy is the material content of up to 60 percent* from renewable, recycled, and ISCC PLUS mass-balance-certified sources. ISCC stands for International Sustainability and Carbon Certification PLUS and enables a traceable supply chain of renewable and recycled raw materials. “The externally certified lifecycle assessment shows an 11 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to the previous Conti Urban HA 3 model,” explains Kaiser. Among other things, natural rubber, renewable fillers, recycled synthetic rubber, and rubber from mechanically processed scrap tires are used.

Tire performance and sensor integration for modern e-bus fleets

In addition to the materials used, the tire stands out thanks to its technical design: the rolling resistance-optimized tread increases the range of battery-powered buses by up to 15 percent. The optimized tread design reduces noise and meets EU label class A for external rolling noise. “Tire acoustics are particularly important with quiet electric drives,” explains Kaiser. The densely arranged sipes ensure excellent grip, lane-keeping and high braking performance. This is particularly important for electric buses with recuperative brakes. In addition, the Conti Urban HA 5 NXT is equipped with the latest generation of tire sensors. The pre-installed sensors enable a quick onboarding of a fleet into Continental’s digital tire management system ContiConnect. The system provides fleet managers with insights into tire pressure, temperature and mileage. This enables predictive maintenance, reduces downtime, and lowers operating costs.

Innovative technologies and sustainable solutions

Continental is driving forward innovative technologies and more sustainable solutions throughout its entire value chain – from sourcing more sustainable materials to recycling end-of-life tires. By 2030, the company aims to increase the share of renewable and recycled materials in its tire production to at least 40 percent – while always maintaining the same high safety and performance characteristics.

Broadening the portfolio for urban public transport

The Conti Urban HA 5 NXT is now available in size 275/70 R 22.5. It also comes with sensors as standard for original equipment, which are available on request for the replacement market. The tire complements the portfolio around the Conti Urban HA 5, which was introduced in 2024, and offers fleet operators a targeted selection for urban public transport.

Continental will present the Conti Urban HA 5 NXT and other solutions for buses and vans from October 4 to 9, 2025, at "Busworld Europe" in Brussels (Hall 7, Stand 784).

Elkem unlocks new mechanical recycling solution for silicone rubber

Elkem ASA (ticker: ELK), a world-leading provider of advanced silicon-based materials, announces another silicone circularity breakthrough: the successful validation of a proof of concept for an innovative mechanical recycling process for High Consistency Rubbers (HCR).

The innovation enables the recycling of crosslinked HCR waste and the reintroduction of the recycled material into new formulations. With re-incorporation rates exceeding 50% and excellent mechanical properties of the resulting material, Elkem demonstrates how advanced material engineering can unlock scalable circular approaches for high-performance silicone elastomers that help reduce waste and carbon footprint, while meeting growing market demand for circular elastomer solutions.

"This breakthrough demonstrates the power of purpose-driven innovation aligned with market expectations," said Joséphine Munsch, R&T sustainability leader at Elkem. "*After two years of development, we are proud to present a first proof of concept for mechanical recycling of HCR, opening the door to new industrial applications and reinforcing our ambition to leverage pragmatic, science-driven solutions to lead and accelerate the transition to a circular economy for silicones*."

The innovation comes as an expansion to Elkem's silicone recycling strategy, now covering both chemical and mechanical recycling routes. The integration of several recycling approaches allows Elkem to tailor solutions based on waste type, carbon footprint goals, and desired product performance — supporting our ambition to build a smart and efficient circular economy for silicones.

This development is one result of the open innovation project "RENOV" (Recycling & Reincorporation of Elastomer Materials), whose goal is to develop technologies for the characterization and recycling of crosslinked elastomer waste, enabling optimal reintegration into formulations containing virgin elastomers for identical applications. It also aims to evaluate market acceptance for new materials such as mechanically recycled HCR to help pinpoint applications creating the most environmental and commercial benefits. Launched in 2023, it brings together Elkem, Hutchinson, Nexans, and CNRS-affiliated laboratories IMP, CP2M, and ISA, including Axel'One work, supported by the French environment agency ADEME .

Elkem will showcase recycled material samples and discuss our mechanical recycling technology at K 2025, the world's number one trade fair for plastics and rubbers from October 7 to 14, 2025 in Düsseldorf, Germany. Meet the company's technical and sustainability experts in Hall 7A, stand B16.

High Consistency Rubbers, also known as Heat Cured Rubbers or High Temperature Vulcanizing silicone rubbers (HTV), exhibit exceptional mechanical strength, stability over time, and electrical insulation properties. They are chemically inert, nonflammable, and thermally stable at temperatures ranging from -120°C to beyond +300°C depending on the grade. These unique properties make them essential materials in a wide array of applications, including electric and hybrid vehicles, aerospace and defense equipment, medical tubes and catheters, temporary and long-term implants, electronic devices, kitchenware and other consumer applications.

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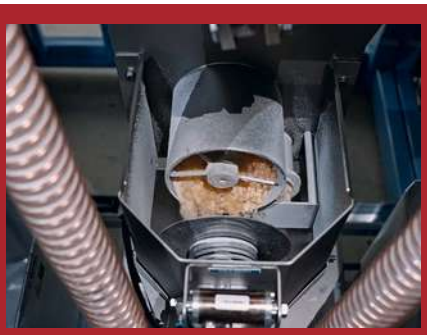

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Rubber Revolution : Balancing Nature and Innovation for a Sustainable Future

IRC2025 Secretariat : Polymer Society of Thailand
Email: irc2025@thaipolymersociety.org
Contact Person: Dr. Taweechai Amornsakchai

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Rubber Revolution : Balancing Nature and Innovation for a Sustainable Future

CONFERENCE FOCUS

- Green Rubber Compounding and Processing
- Enhancing Durability and Performance of Rubber Products
- Rubbers and Rubber Composites Innovations for Unexplored and Sustainable Applications
- Advanced Rubber Solutions for Global Warming Challenges
- Smart, Intelligent and Functional Rubber Materials
- Natural Rubber, Bio-based Rubbers and Rubber Chemicals
- Progress in Rubber Analysis, Testing and Standards
- Safety and Environmental Impact of Rubber Products
- Recycling and Circular Economy in the Rubber Industry

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Technical Conference Program
- Natural Rubber Symposium
- Technology Exhibition
- IRCO Student Award
- Networking Gala Dinner
- NR Factory Visit

VENUE

Bangkok International Trade &Exhibition Center (BITEC)
88 Debaratna Road (km. 1) Bangna Tai.
Bangna, Bangkok 10260, Thailand
Website: www.bitec.co.th
Nearest Train Station: Bangna – BTS Station

CHAIRMAN

Dr. Krisda Suchiva

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Detailed technical program of IRC 2025 will be updated soon. The time schedule for each day for technical presentations is 9am to 5pm.

Please check website www.irc2025.com for upto date information.

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Plenary Presentations

- **AI-driven Research and Multi-scale Simulation of Elastomer Materials** | *Prof. Liqun Zhang, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China*
- **Sustainable Materials for Tyre Engineering** | *Prof. Sabu Thomas, Mahatma Gandhi University, India*
- **Sustainable Mobility 2030 and beyond – Role of Tyre and Rubber Industry** | *Dr. R Mukhopadhyay, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., India*
- **Circular Economy - Limits and Chances in Rubber Recycling** | *Prof. Ulrich Giese, German Institute for Rubber Technology, Germany*
- **Crack Resistance and Beyond: Fracture Mechanics in Strain Crystallizing and Liquid Crystal Elastomers** | *Prof. Kenji Urayama, Kyoto University, Japan*

Keynote Presentations

- **The Crosslinking Dilemma in ENR: Evaluating Sulphur and Di-acid Networks for Future-Ready Rubber Products** | *Dr. Amit Das, Leibniz Institute of Polymer Research Dresden, Germany*
- **On the path to make a black magic green – how to minimize the the CO2 footprint of rubber products** | *Prof. Andreas Limper, Institut für Kunststoffverarbeitung RWTH Aachen, Germany*
- **Recent Advances in Reducing Hysteresis of Rubber Composites** | *Prof. Baochun Guo, South China University of Technology, China*
- **Some Considerable Factors in Laboratory Frictional Testing Rubbers** | *Prof. Changwoon Nah, Jeonbuk National University, South Korea*
- **Enhancing Coagulation Efficiency and Overcoming Uncoagulation Issues in Skim Latex Using Synthetic and Natural Creaming Agents** | *Assoc. Prof. Charoen Nakason, Prince of Songkla University, Suratthani Campus, Thailand*
- **Bio-based Approach to Dispersion of Silica in NR** | *Prof. Dariusz M. Bieliński, Lodz University of Technology, Poland*
- **Resolving the Microstructure of Natural Rubber and Its Influence on the Mechanical Properties** | *Prof. Jinrong Wu, Sichuan University, China*
- **Engineering Allergy-Free Natural Rubber: Sustainable Deproteinization for Enhanced Industrial and Medical Performance** | *Prof. Jitladda Sakdapipanich, Mahidol University, Thailand*
- **AFM Nanomechanics Connecting Macro- and Nanoscopic World** | *Prof. Ken Nakajima, Institute of Science Tokyo, Japan*
- **Recent Trends in Adopting Sustainable Solution for Rubber Additives: How Chemistry Plays Significant Role?** | *Prof. Kinsuk Naskar, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, India*
- **Natural Rubber in the Click Era: Advancing Functionalization and Modification via Click Chemistry** | *Prof. Laurent FONTAINE, Le Mans University, France*

Keynote Presentations

- **Elucidating the Role of Nanoscale Interfaces and 3D Dispersion in Elastomer Nanocomposites: Connecting Microstructure to Viscoelastic Behavior** | *Prof. Ming Tian, Beijing University of Chemical Technology (BUCT), China*
- **Optimized Synthesis of Liquid Fluorosilicone Rubber with Improved Cold Resistance for Semiconductor Application** *Prof. Sang Eun Shim, Inha University, South Korea*
- **Development of Fast Rubber Sheet-Forming Method for Natural Rubber and Its Application** | *Prof. Seiichi Kawahara, Nagaoka University of Technology, Japan*
- **Wide-Angle X-Ray Diffraction Studies on Strain-Induced Crystallization of Vulcanized Natural Rubber by Two-Step Biaxial Stretching** | *Prof. Shinichi Sakurai, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan*
- **New Insights into Vulcanization Reactions for Green Rubber Technology** | *Prof. Yuko Ikeda, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan*
- **Revisiting the Properties of Natural Rubber in Tire Industry and Development of NR-based Sidewall Compounds for EV Passenger Cars** | *Assoc. Prof. Kannika Sahakaro, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus, Thailand*

Invited Presentations

- **Greener Tire Tread Compounds by Reducing the Amount of Ingredients** | *Prof. Anke Blume, University of Twente, Netherlands*
- **Delayed Crystallization Response-Inspired Waterborne Polyurethane with High Performance** | *Prof. Fei Chen, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China*
- **Soft sensing composites based on rubber and elastomer matrices: Development and characterization methods** | *Dr. Frank Jörg Clemens, Smart Ceramic Processing, EMPA, Switzerland*
- **Facile recycling strategy for end-of-life rubbers by selective cleavage of cross-linking bonds** | *Prof. Ganggang Zhang, South China University of Technology, China*
- **Greening the Elastomer Technology : Bio-Based Solid/Liquid Rubbers, Polyurethanes, and TPVs** | *Prof. Jeong Seok OH, Gyeongsang National University, South Korea*
- **Cellulose Nanocrystal: Scalable Production and Innovative Applications of Bio-based Nanofillers** | *Prof. Jianming Zhang, Qingdao University of Science and Technology, China*
- **Colour-changing Smart Materials inspired by Nature: Chameleon Effect** | *Dr. Karine Mougin, Institut de Science des Matériaux de Mulhouse, France*
- **Natural rubber foam containing gamma-synthesized chitosan for the utilization as enhanced heavy-metal sorbents** | *Assoc. Prof. Kiadtisak Saenboonruang, Kasetsart University, Thailand*

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Invited Presentations

- ***Effect of Molecular Architecture on the Thermal Stability of Poly(epichlorohydrin-co-ethylene oxide-co-allyl glycidyl ether) (GECO) Based Elastomers |*** *Prof. Murat Sen, Hacettepe University, Turkey*
- **Optimizing Silica and Carbon Black Ratios for Enhanced Mechanical Performance of NR/BR/SSBR blends** / *Assoc. Prof. Nadras Othman, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Malaysia*
- ***Self-Healing Rubber: An Advancing Technology for Smart Gloves*** / *Dr. Patrick Tang Siah Ying, Monash University Malaysia, Malaysia*
- **Introduction of Reversible Bonds into Rubber Networks** / *Dr. Toshio Tada, Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd., Japan*
- **Dual-Functional Natural Rubber Composites with Piezoresistive and Antibacterial Properties for Wearable Motion Detection |** *Asst. Prof. Yeampon Nakaramontri, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand*
- **Strain Softening of Rubber Nanocomposites Vulcanizates** / *Prof. Yihu Song, Zhejiang University, China*
- **Synthesis of Polyester-based Multiblock Copolymer Elastomers via A Cascade Polymerization Method** / *Prof. Yingfeng Tu, Soochow University, China*
- ***Renewable Elastomeric Networks of Functionalized Ethylene-Propylene Copolymer*** / *Prof. Yixian WU, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, China*

Natural Rubber Symposium

- **Global Efforts to Ensure Sustainability of NR Supplies |** *Stefano Savi, Global Platform for Sustainability of Natural Rubber*
- **The Role of Thailand Contributing to Sustainability of NR Supplies** / *Dr. Napawan Lekawipat, Rubber Authority of Thailand*
- **Quality of NR Novel Green Technologies for Production of User-friendly and Consistent Properties NR** / *Dr. Nantina Moonprasith, National Metal and Materials Technology Center, Thailand*
- **From Tree to Technological Materials: Turning Natural Rubber into a Game-changer for More Sustainable and Performing Products** / *Poonyawat Prateeprat, Michelin*
- **Perspective on Dipped Rubber Product Biodegradability: MRB Research Highlights and Future Pathways** / *Shabinah Filza Binti Mohd Sharib, Malaysian Rubber Board*
- ***Study of Biodegradation Efficiency of Natural Rubber Products by Various Microorganism*** / *Dr. Nattawut Boonyuen, (National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Thailand)*
- **Clinical Study of Allergic Properties of NR Gloves and Other NRL Products** / *Dr. Naesinee Chaiear, Khon Khan University, Thailand*
- **From Allergen to Assurance: A Comprehensive Review of Natural Rubber Product Safety and MRB's Strategic Role** / *Dr. Aziana Binti Abu Hassan, Malaysian Rubber Board*
- **Pioneering a Sustainable Biorefinery of Natural Rubber Serum for New Bioactives in Cosmetics, Food, Nutraceuticals, and Pharmaceuticals** / *Dr. Thanawat Pitakpornpreecha, Prince of Songkhla University, Thailand*
- **Modified Natural Rubber: Current Progress, Opportunities, and Challenges.** / *Dr. Krishna Veni, Malaysian Rubber Board*
- **Challenge for the Future of NR Latexand NRL Products** / *Dr. Amir Hashim Yatim, Malaysian Rubber Glove Manufacturers Association*
- **Opportunity for Industrial Applications of NR** / *Dr. Banja Junhasavasdikul, Innovation Group, Thailand*

Delegate Registration

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Contact Info

IRC2025 Secretariat
Polymer Society of Thailand
irc2025@thaipolymersociety.org
Contact : Dr.Taweechai Amornsakchai

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Oral Presentations

- **Thermo-chemical devulcanization of sulfur-cured styrene–butadiene rubber (SBR) using diphenyldisulfide (DPDS)** | *Jonas Petzke, Paderborn University, Germany*
- **Tribological behavior of soft polymers against model substrates** | *Prof. Sophie Bistac, Professor, Université de Haute Alsace UHA – LPIM, France*
- **Study of standard laboratory for testing medical rubber gloves according to ISO/IEC 17025** | *Dr. Hassarutai Yangthong, Researcher, Hub of Talents in Natural Rubber, NRCT, Thailand*
- **Polyrotaxane-Based Hybrid Crosslinking for Tunable Elastic and Thermal Response in Epoxidized Natural Rubber** | *Assoc. Prof. Anoma Thitithammawong, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand*
- **Why Lab Studies Matter for Understanding Tyre Wear Emissions**| *Dr. Martin Stěnička, Dr.Tomas Bata University in Zlin / University Institute / Centre of Polymer Systems, Czech Republic*
- **Impact of Fused Filament Fabrication and Processing Parameters on the Performance of $BaTiO_3$-Piezoelectric Composites for Soft Robots** | *Sofiia Butenko, EMPA, Switzerland*
- **New non-isocyanate polyurethane films based on natural rubber** | *Tharin Sensan, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand*
- **A New Antibacterial Hybrid Waterborne Polyurethane/Silica Coating Film Based on Natural rubber |** *Assoc.Prof. Dr. Nitinart Saetung, Faculty of Science, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand*
- **Method for Analyzing Mechanical Property Degradation of Polymer Materials Using Artificial Intelligence** | *Sangin Park, Researcher, Hyundai Motor Company, South Korea*
- **Molecular chain structure changes and strain-induced crystallization behaviors during various deformation of segmented polyurethane elastomer** | *Asst. Prof. Kakeru Obayashi, Kyoto University, Japan*
- **Understanding and Controlling Storage Hardening in Natural Rubber via Phospholipid Network Disruption** | *Kittipong Insom, Mahidol University, Thailand*
- **The Role of Deformation Mode on Rubber Hysteresis and Its Dependency on Viscoelasticity** | *Dr. Shouliang Nie, Researcher, Zhongce Rubber Group Co. Ltd, China*
- **Overview of SRI's research initiatives for enhancing the well-being of natural rubber stakeholders in Thailand** | *Dr. Lucksanaporn Tarachiwin, Deputy General Manager, Sumitomo Rubber (Thailand) Co., Ltd*
- **Degradation Trends in Plasticity and Viscosity of Selected Standard Philippine Rubber Under Prolonged Storage** | *Rosemarie Salazar, Assistant Regional Director, Department of Science and Technology Region IX - Philippines*

Oral Presentations

- **Study on the dispersion of silica in SBR using time-resolved ultra small angle X-ray scattering** | *Assoc. Prof. Shotaro Nishitsuji, Yamagata University, Japan*
- **Sustainable Yield Improvement and Quality Assessment of TSR10 Rubber from Two Hevea brasiliensis Genotypes: Impact of Reduced Tapping Frequency Associated with Ethephon Stimulation** | *Hathainat Kum-ourm, Researcher, Sumitomo Rubber (Thailand) Co., Ltd.*
- **Preparation and Characterization of Silica Filled Modified Natural Rubber: A Comparative Analysis of Pre-dispersion and Conventional Techniques** | *Dalip Abdulraman, Mahidol University, Thailand*
- **Mechanical Tailoring of Waterborne Epoxy Coatings on Metal Substrates using Functionalized Natural Rubber Latex** | *Dr. Wasan Tessanan, Pathumwan Institute of Technology, Thailand*
- **How microcapsule-enhanced rubber can help creating a circular economy** | *Katerina Filzer, University of Twente, Netherlands*
- **Correlative analysis of morphological and functional properties in high-performance elastomer blends** | *Dean Vidakovic, ZFE - Austrian Centre for Electron Microscopy & Nanoanalysis, Austria*
- **Advancing sustainability in synthetic rubber: from commitment to climate action** | *MARJOLEIN GROENEWEG, Marketing & Sustainability Director, Synthos Schkopau GmbH, Germany*
- **Pyrolysis of Polychloroprene Rubber with Scavenger-Based HCl Neutralization** | *Parinchaya Srithavorn, Queen Mary University of London, Thailand*
- **On the Decoupling of Chemical and Mechanical Surface Contributions in Soft Polymer Network Adhesion** | *Prof. Maurice Brogly, UHA – LPIM, France*
- **Carbon Black Coupling Agents for Improved Fuel Efficiency of Tyres** | *Max Dixey, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom*
- **The development of bio-inspired composites from epoxidized natural rubber using π–π stacking and cation–π interactions** | *Dr. Kwanchai Buaksuntear, Hub of Talents in Natural Rubber, National Research Council of Thailand*
- **Improving Seal Life Prediction: Faster Crack Growth Testing in HNBR and NBR** | *Orkid Ramekaj, Queen Mary University, United Kingdom*
- **Investigation of the Effect of the amount of zinc borate on cure kinetics, reversion, and mechanical properties of natural rubber in a semi-efficient curing system** |*Dr. Davut Aksüt, Hacettepe University, Turkey*
- **Study on the Effect of Silane Coupling Agents on Mechanical Behavior of Silica-Filled Styrene-Butadiene Rubber under Elongation using In Situ Nano-Palpation Atomic Force Microscopy** | *Maytawee Malineerat, Institute of Science Tokyo, Japan*

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- **Implementing Circular Economy Strategies in Power Transmission Belt Manufacturing** | *Dr. Aswathy T R, Assistant Manager, JK Fenner India Ltd., India*
- **AFM-Based Investigation of Polyisoprene-Inorganic Interface Adhesion at Multiple Scales** |*HEXUAN MAO, Institute of Science Tokyo, Japan*
- **Aluminum Soaps: A New Prospect for Rubber Application** | *Prof. Xiaorong Wang, Center for Frontier Research & Technology, Hangzhou Zhongce Rubber Company, China*
- **Sustainable NZEROSILTM Silicas from Renewable Rice Husk** | *Danniel Liao, Product Application Development Supervisor, Oriental Silicas Corporation, Taiwan, Province of China*
- **Inverse vulcanization forged self-motivated polysulfide silane: An ultra-efficient architect in engineering silica-rubber interface** | *Dr. Dong Wang, South China university of technology, China*
- **Microstructural Modelling of Carbon Black Aggregates for Sustainable Next-Generation Tyre Design** | *Sarah Pedroni, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom*
- **Rubber Blend Compatibility Analysis Using Large-Amplitude Oscillatory Shear (LAOS) on RPA** | *Dr. Zühra Çınar Esin, Hacettepe University, Turkey*
- **Chitosan-reinforced epoxidized natural rubber: possible design of energy-efficient tire tread compounds** | *Nantinee Choosang, Hub of Talents in Natural Rubber, National Research Council of Thailand*
- **Rubbery Soft Polymer Electrolyte Membrane with Nanomatrix Channel Prepared from Natural Rubber** | *Dr. Yoshimasa Yamamoto, Associate Professor, National Institute of Technology, Tokyo College ,Japan*
- **Biomimetic Design and Development of Natural Rubber-based Soft Robotics** | *Dr. Manus Sriring, Researcher, Rubber Technology Research Centre, Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, Thailand*
- **Experimental Analysis of the Mixing Behavior of Ethylene-Propylene-Diene Rubber (EPDM) in a Rubber Pin Extruder under Variation of Process Parameters and Mixing Elements** | *Mr. Leon Schmidt, Paderborn University, GermanY*
- **Study on Rubber Adhesive Interface Peeling Mechanism of Sealing Materials** | *Mr. Hiromu Kawasaki, Researcher, NOK corporation, Japan*
- **Influences of Sulfur Vulcanization System and Curative Content on Properties of Tire Tread Compounds Filled with Carbon Black/Silica Hybrid Filler** | *Dr. Puchong Thaptong, Researcher, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand*
- **Eco-Efficient Vulcanization: Analysis of a Sustainable Rubber Curing Package** | *Frances van Elburg, University of Twente, Netherlands*

Oral Presentations

- **Removal of proteins from natural rubber by creaming method** | *ANH VIET TA, Nagaoka University of Technology, Japan*
- **Critical Concentration of Primary Amines for Preparation of Vulcanized Deproteinized Natural Rubber with Outstanding Mechanical Properties** | *Lam Ba Nguyen, Nagaoka University of Technology, Japan*
- **Surface-Functionalised Carbon Black as a High-Performance Filler in Elastomeric Compounds: Techniques and Potential** | *Rattapong Numard, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom*
- **Visualizing Nanoscale Interface in Direct Adhesive Rubbers Containing Reversible Coordination Linkages |** *Asst. Prof. Kim Hung NGUYEN, Institute of Science Tokyo, Japan*
- **Boron-Containing Elastomer** | *Assoc. Prof. Qi Wu, Sichuan University, China*
- **Enhancing the Piezoresistive Sensing Properties of TPE/CB Composites via Co-Continuous Structure Design through Natural Rubber Blending** |*Christopher Bascucci, Empa, Switzerland*
- **Friction Behaviour in Relation to Wear Morphology** | *Huong Thao Pham, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom*
- **Elastomeric Ionomer based on Maleated Bromobutyl Rubber** | *Assoc.Prof. Subhan Salaeh, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand*
- **Green Synthesis of Zinc Oxide from Skim Latex Serum for Application in Rubber Vulcanization** | *Asst. Prof. Preeyanuch Junkong, Mahidol University, Thailand*
- **Modelling of Elastomers under Dynamical Mechanical Loads** | *Prof. Michael Johlitz, Institute of Mechanics, Germany*
- **Extrudable Vitrimeric Rubbers Enabled via Heterogeneous Crosslinking** | *Dr. Shuangjian Yu, South China University of Technology, China*
- **Property and Application of Perfluoropolyether-modified Functional Rubber** | *Dr. Zheming Tong, PetroChina (Shanghai) New Materials Research Institute Co., Ltd., China*
- **Effect of crystal orientation on mechanical strength of poly-isoprene rubber under bi-axial deformation** | *Airi Sato, Researcher, Bridgestone Corporation, Japan*
- **Enhancing Ozone Resistance of Tyre Sidewall by Sustainable Replacement of Petroleum Wax with Bio-based Additive** | *Tirthankar Bhandary, Researcher, HASETRI, India*
- **Performance Evaluation of Silicone-Based Isolators Under Varying Temperatures and Excitation Levels Using a Thermal Chamber Shaker** | *Erdem Rahmi SENOZ, Mechanical Engineer, Aselsan, Turkey*

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- **New insights into Resins behavior: Influence of Resin Softening Point on the In-Rubber Properties of Carbon Black-Filled SBR Compounds** | *Dr. Javier Alejandro Araujo Morera, Assistant Professor, University of Twente / Elastomer Technology and Engineering, Netherlands*
- **Latex Serum Boosts Natural Rubber Strength** | *Dr. Katsuhiko Tsunoda, Researcher, Bridgestone Corporation, Japan*
- **N-Vinylamides: Structural Isomers of Amino acids Grafted onto Deproteinized Natural Rubber** | *Prof. Hiroharu Ajiro, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, Japan*
- **Low-Hysteresis Rubber Composites** | *Prof. Baochun Guo, South China University of Technology, China*
- **Study on the Performance of Natural Rubber - Copper Coated Steel Wire with BCDB and BCoPD** | *Yuan Jin, Technical Service Manager, Rebo New Material Group, China*
- **In situ methods to characterize deformation-induced mechanisms in NR** | *Dr. Eric Euchler, Leibniz Institute of Polymer Research Dresden, Germany*
- **Innovation Management for Commercial Success in the Rubber Industry Amid Shifting Global Market Forces** | *Dr. Matthew Thornton, The Rubber Initiative, United Kingdom*
- **Chemical fingerprinting for environmental detection of tyre rubber emissions** | Mr. Nick Molden, CEO, Emissions Analytics Ltd., United Kingdom
- **Formulations of finite hyperelasticity and viscoelasticity using invariants of stretch tensors** | *Prof. Alexander Lion, University of the Bundeswehr, Germany*

Poster Presentations

- **Simulation of Rubber Acoustic Coatings under Deep-Sea Pressure Based on Strain-Dependent Viscoelastic Properties** | *Dr. LIU Yue, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, China*
- **Spatiotemporal Internal-Damage Distribution During Nonuniform Deformations in Filled Elastomers** | *Yuki Tokudome, Kyoto University, Japan*
- **Accelerated Prediction of Glass Transition Temperature in SSBR via Integrated Molecular Dynamics Simulation and Machine Learning Framework** | *SIQI ZHAN, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, China*
- ***Development of an Integrated Design, Analysis ,and Evaluation System for Rubber Components*** | *Dr. Changsu Woo, Researcher, Korea*

Poster Presentations

- **Enhancing Mechanical and Antibacterial Properties of Natural Rubber/Tire Waste Blends through Dual-Phase Processing Techniques** | *Napasorn Kingkohyao, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand*
- **Development of Phosphorylated Cellulose Nanofibers/Natural Rubber Composites |** *Ryotaro TAKAYAMA, Researcher, Oji Holdings Corporation, Japan*
- **Establishment of a library database of some compounding ingredients using a Py-GC/MS technique** | *Prin Tumwised, Mahidol University, Thailand*
- **Development of Tire Tread Formulations for Military Light-Truck Tires** | *Dr. PAIROTE JITTHAM, Researcher, National Metal and Materials Technology Center, Thailand*
- **Identification and Reduction of residual allergenic rubber proteins in Natural Rubber latex gloves via Alkaline and Surfactant Treatments** | *Pimnaraporn Porncharukit, Mahidol university, Thailand*
- **Mixed-Mode Crack Propagation Criterion in Elastomers** *|Tomoki Mishima, Kyoto University, Japan*
- **Effect of Carbon Black and Barium Titanate Hybrid Filler on the Change of Electrical Signal in Epoxidized Natural Rubber Composites** | *LYHAV BOEURN, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand*
- **Feasibility Study of Tamarind Shell Powder as a Bio-Based Secondary Accelerator for Rubber Flooring** | *Weenusarin Intiya, Researcher, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand*
- **Study on the Effect of Compatibilizer Content on the Mechanical Properties of NR/BR/NBR Blends** | *Kanokporn Sarikanonm, Kasetsart University, Thailand*
- **Fatigue Properties of Rubber Composites with Different Glass Transition Temperatures** | *Dr. Jiaye Li, Beijing University of Chemical Technology, China*
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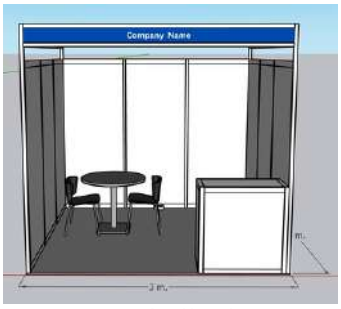

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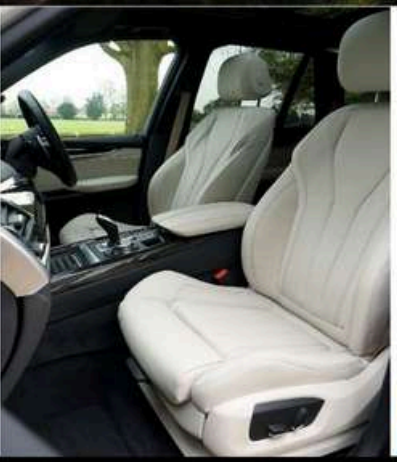

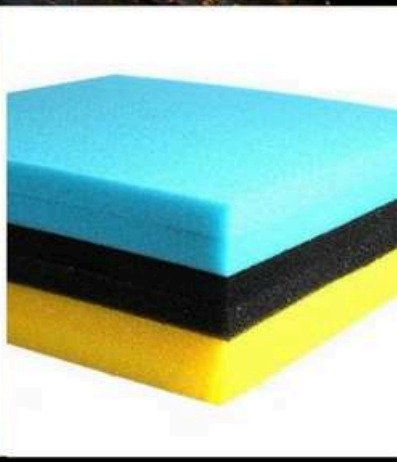

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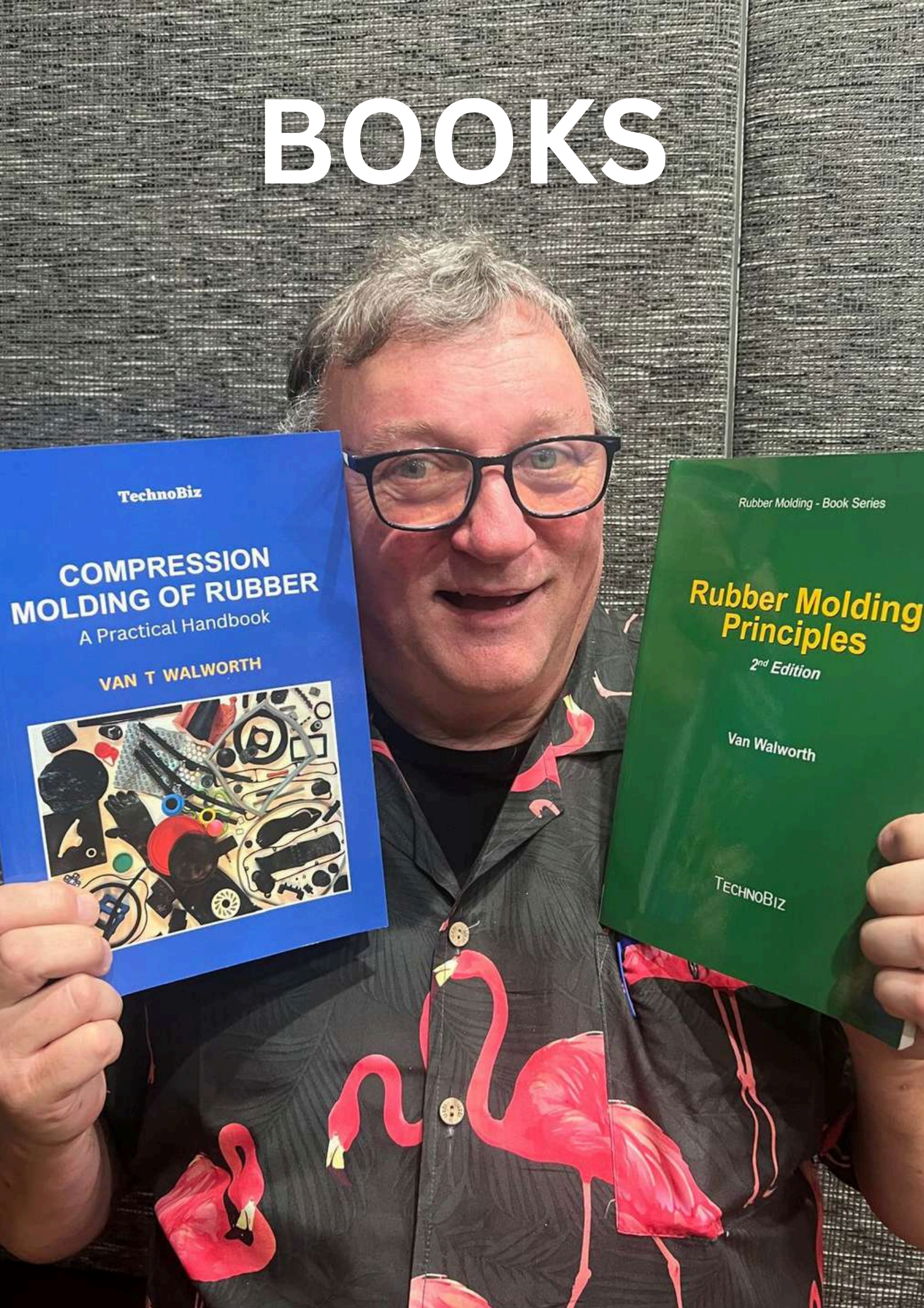
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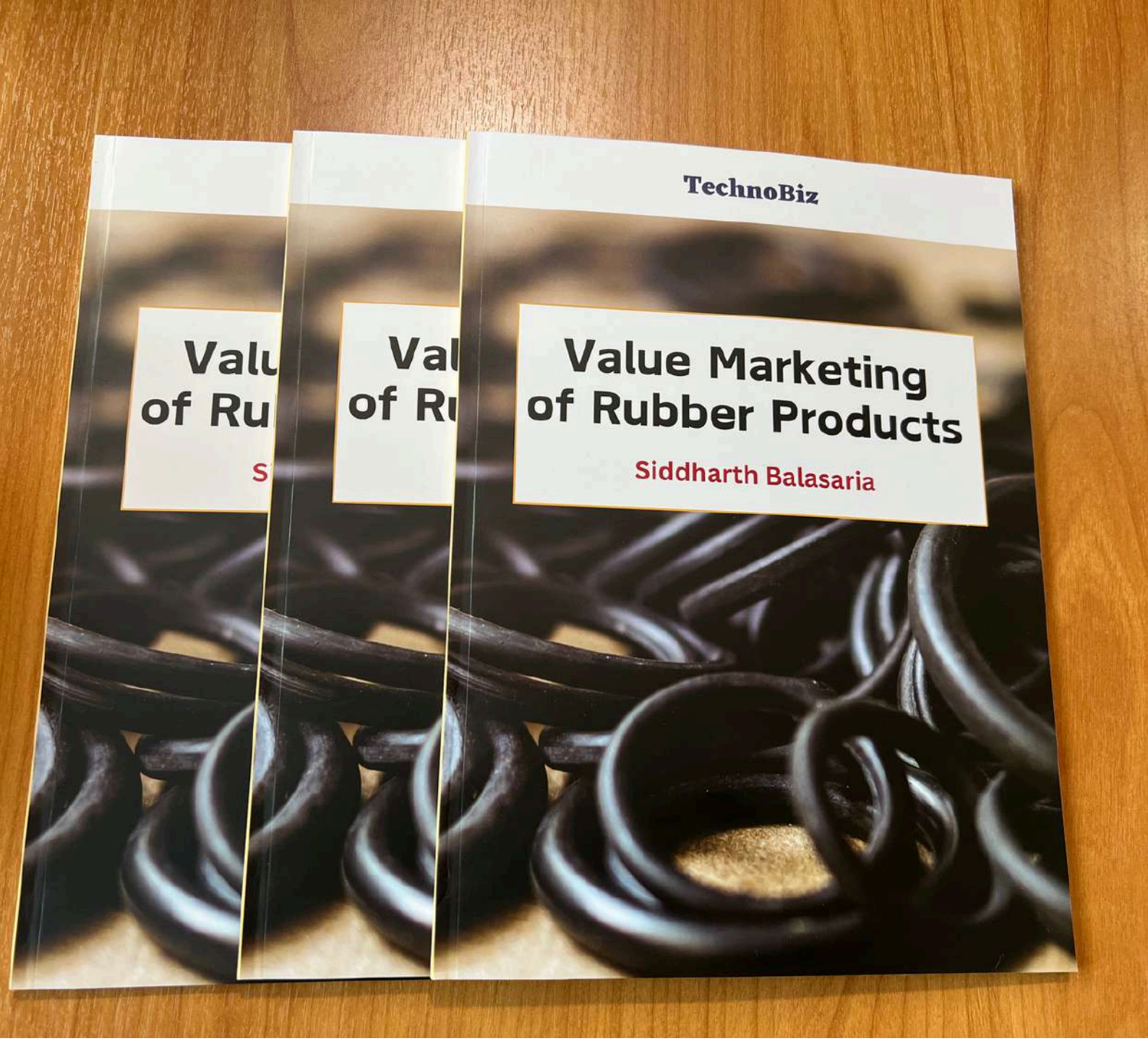

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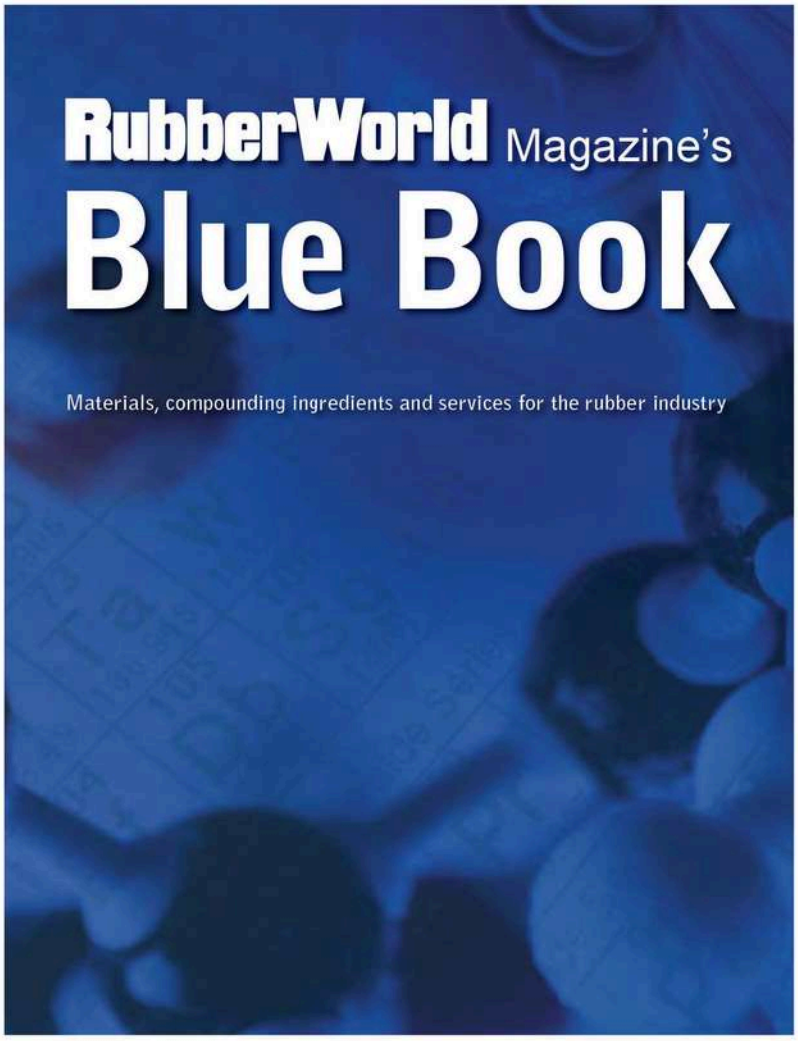

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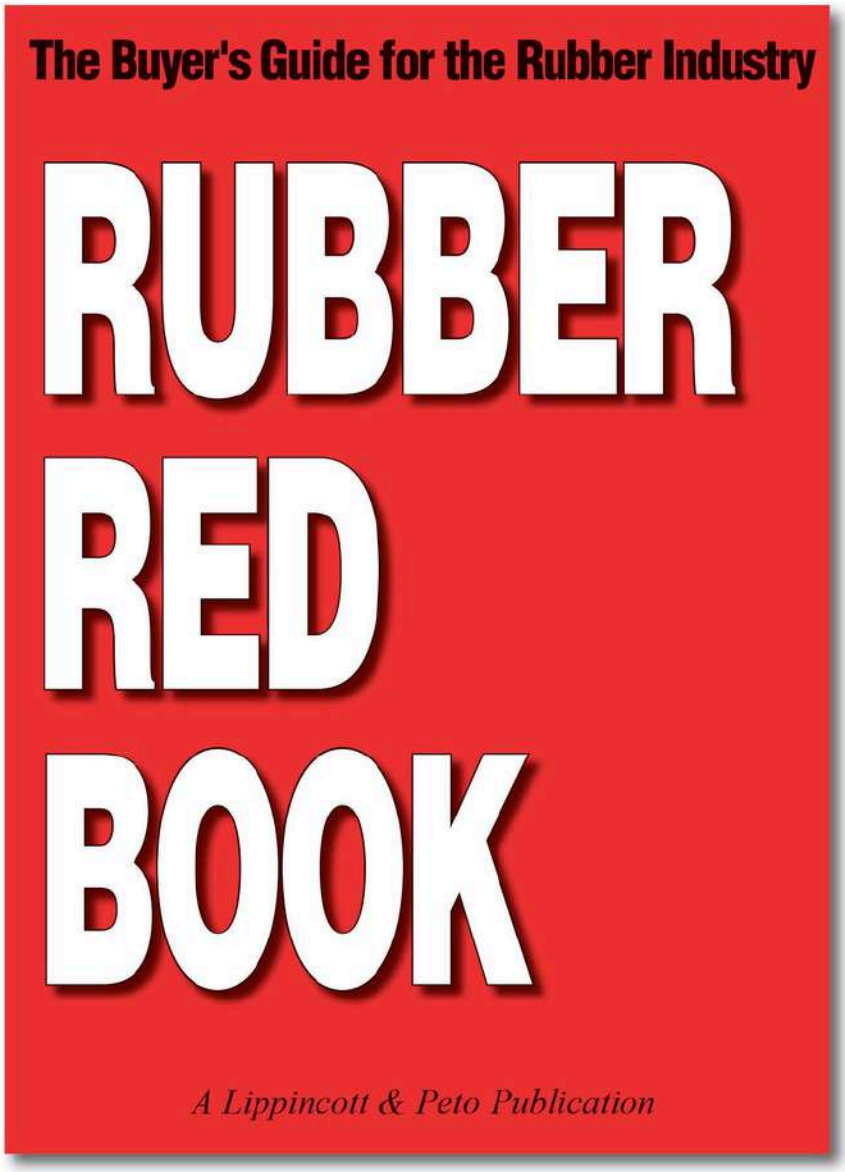

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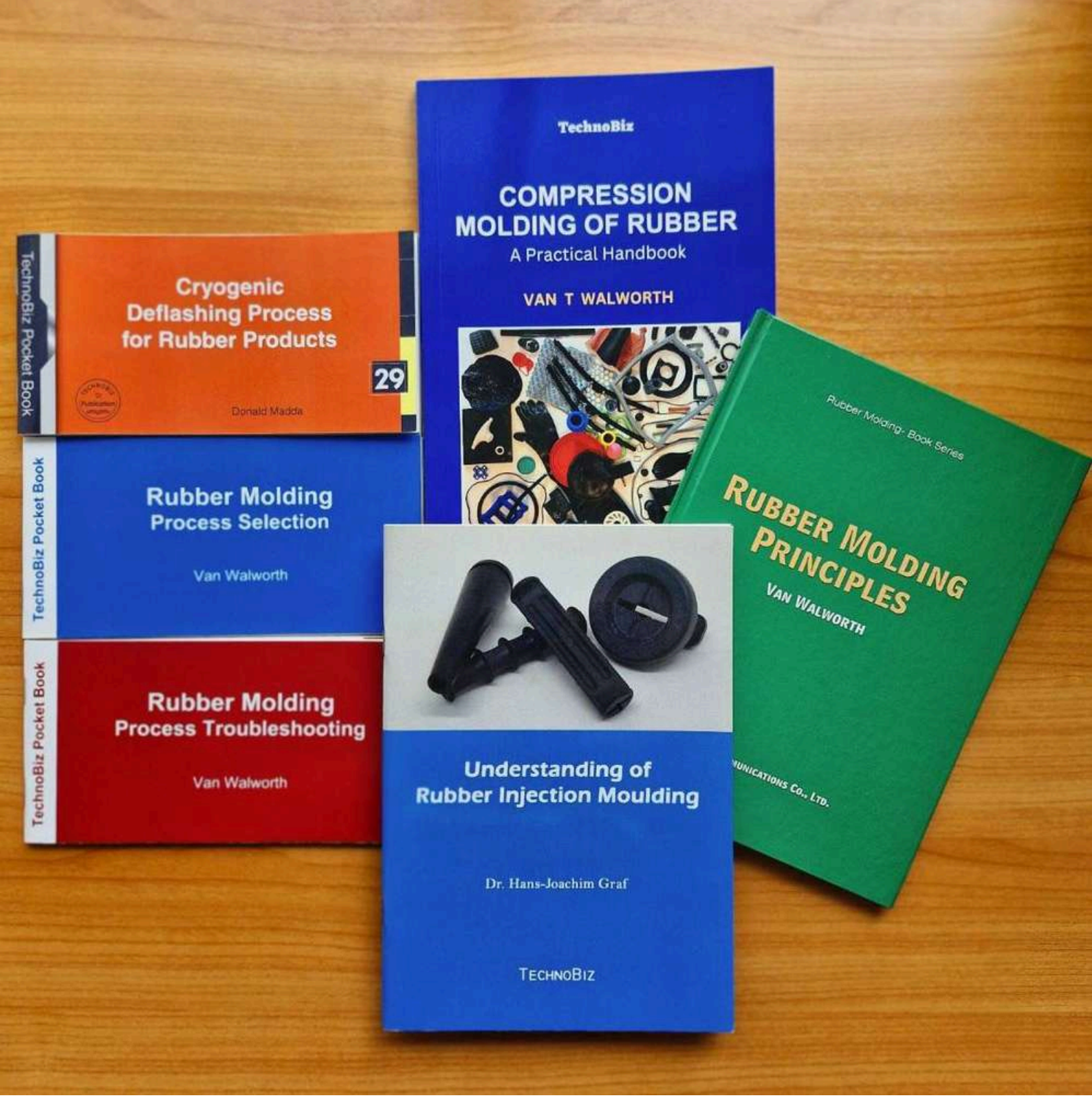

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